

## JOHN DENVER: LEGEND AND THE LEGACY

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# Royal visit hit by row over Cook remarks on Kashmir

By MICHAEL BRYNOR  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A ROW over remarks on Kashmir by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, threatened yesterday to overshadow the Queen's state visit to India.

Indian officials strongly objected to Mr Cook's offer, during a call on Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's Prime Minister, and Gohar Ayub Khan, the Foreign Minister, to help find a "just solution" to the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. They accused

Britain of trying to internationalise an issue that India regards as an internal affair. Indian newspapers were harshly critical, accusing Britain of pro-Pakistani bias.

Britain moved quickly to defuse the row. Mr Cook denied that he had made any public statement on Kashmir. The Foreign Office said he had brought no new ideas or fresh initiatives, and said the Labour Government's position was well known to both sides. The Queen, in her banquet speech last night in Delhi, did not refer to Kashmir or to

Pakistan, and delivered a bland speech that sources suggested had been hastily rewritten in the light of the controversy.

Under Kumar Gujral, the Indian Prime Minister, swiftly denied a report in an Indian newspaper that he had called Britain a "third-rate power" with declining influence in the world.

Mr Cook said after talks with Mr Gujral that he was glad to hear the Government's assurance that such reports were untrue. He had had a "very warm and friendly" lunch

with the Prime Minister. He added: "There is no row. The long and close ties between our two countries are based on mutual respect."

A senior Indian source said last night, however, that it was inappropriate for Mr Cook to have accompanied the Queen, whose visit was designed for goodwill, not for trade or politics. "She was not accompanied by the Foreign Secretary on her previous two state visits and she should have come without him on this occasion. It was a mistake for Mr Cook to join her."

Pakistan criticised Mr Gujral's reported remarks about Britain, and accused India of distasteful, arrogant behaviour. "Such ridicule heaped on a United Nations Security Council permanent member and world power in its own right merely because it has called for a just and fair solution of the Kashmir problem is, to say the least, distasteful," a spokesman said.

Speaking in Amritsar yesterday, the Queen tried to deflect any controversy. She thanked President Narayanan and Mr Gujral for their

sympathy after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Within a week of her death, India had lost Mother Teresa. "Diana had, as do I and all my family, the highest admiration for that remarkable lady, and for her lifetime of service to others," the Queen said.

The first day of the six-day tour took in a visit to the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi, father of independent India.

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# Blair mobbed after shaking Adams's hand

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

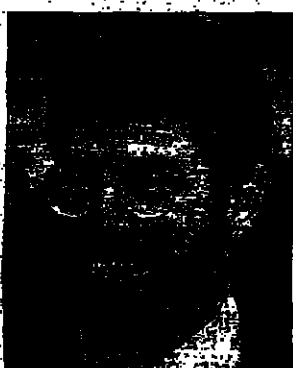
TONY BLAIR was jostled and heckled by a crowd of furious loyalists in staunchly Protestant East Belfast last night after he became the first Prime Minister in 76 years to meet Irish republican leaders.

About 100 protesters shouted "traitor", "scum" and "shame" when Mr Blair attempted a shopping centre walkabout within an hour of shaking hands with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin at the Stormont peace talks.

Some of the demonstrators were wearing rubber gloves to make their point and called "Sinn Féin lover, your hands are covered in blood" as the Prime Minister's security men hurried him into a bank.

Mr Blair later emerged to continue his walkabout, ringed by 50 police officers, and although he carried on waving and smiling, he looked flustered as he was driven back to Stormont.

Nobody was hurt, there were no arrests, and Downing Street insisted that Mr Blair was unconcerned by what it called an "orchestrated protest", but the ugly scenes at the Cornmarket shopping centre emphasised the profound divisions in the way of peace in Northern Ireland and marked a day that, until then,



Adams hoped Irish unity would come

had left Mr Blair "hugely encouraged".

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party which is boycotting the talks, said that if the Prime Minister's officials had not expected such a reception they were out of touch with reality. In his meeting with Mr Blair he produced a gory photograph of an IRA victim. "I told him that is the handwork of the men he shook hands with today."

The Prime Minister made no apology for a meeting with Mr Adams that completed Sinn Féin's entry into mainstream democratic politics, paving the way for the party's leaders to visit Downing

Street. He said the choice was simple. "We can either carry on with the hatred and the despair and the killing, treating people as if they were not part of humanity, or we can try to settle our differences by negotiation, by discussion, by debate."

The historic meeting took place out of sight of the scores of television cameras lined up outside. It lasted 15 minutes according to Downing Street; 30 according to Sinn Féin. Sitting in a circle with officials, Mr Blair emphasised to Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness that the talks had to be based on the principle of consent and if Sinn Féin reneged on its commitment to non-violence it would not be given another chance.

He said he had ignored naysayers who believed that Northern Ireland was a lost cause. He promised straight dealing, pledged to devote all his "energy and commitment and dynamism" to the peace process, and underlined the importance of seizing a unique opportunity that they might never see again.

It was "a very rare thing for humanity to make sense of history but that's exactly what we have got to do," he told them. "You either end up as victims of history or you make



Security men usher the Prime Minister to safety in a nearby bank after he was confronted by about 100 Protestant protesters in East Belfast

sense of it." Mr Adams said that Mr Blair was the first British Prime Minister who had heard first-hand the experience, analysis and vision of Irish republicans. He hoped that Mr Blair would help bring about Irish unity and become "the last Prime Minister with jurisdiction in Ireland". He was "a man who certainly realises this is an historic opportunity. He recognises also there needs to be change."

John Hume, leader of the

nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, said that Mr Blair had bought a message of "deep encouragement" and David Ervine, a leader of the loyalist Progressive Unionist Party, said the Prime Minister would not have come if the talks had not been making progress. But mainstream Unionists, who believe the IRA ceasefire is bogus, were sharply critical of Mr Blair for meeting Mr Adams.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, sought

to minimise the significance of the occasion, while Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, accused Mr Blair of disgraceful conduct. He suggested that "not only from their graves but from the bereaved families there is an agonised cry of repugnance at the Prime Minister's action".

Ian McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader who is also boycotting the talks, said the "leadership of a government that has corrupted democracy is giving a veneer of

respectability to a totally fraudulent process".

Mr Blair will, however, receive tacit support from John Major for the risks he is taking to achieve peace in Northern Ireland. "Yes, I

believe a deal can be done and without too great a delay," the former Prime Minister will tell BBCi in *Provos: The IRA and Sinn Féin*.

Leading article, page 21

## Surgeons accused

Two surgeons carried out heart operations on babies when they must have known that too many of their patients were dying, the General Medical Council was told. Page 5

## Plea to fans

The Sports Minister has appealed for supporters who were hurt in the match against Italy to write to him. Page 10

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## 'Living wills' may get legal force

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE would have a statutory right to draw up "living wills" detailing their wishes about medical treatment should they become incapable of speaking for themselves, under reforms to be pushed forward by the Government.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, said yesterday that he was contemplating a Bill to reform the law affecting people who cannot make decisions for themselves. That could give them the right to state in advance that they would not want to be revived or treated in certain circumstances.

Courts have already declared that "living wills" can be valid under certain conditions, but uncertainty surrounds them, so they are little used. Allan Levy, QC, a specialist in medical law, said last night that statutory backing for such documents would bring clarity and avoid the need for so many cases to be taken before a court.

A change in the law regarded by the Law Commission as urgent two years ago could give comfort to many elderly people who are concerned about what would happen to them should they become senile and give weight to the wishes of younger people with firm views about whether and how they should be treated if disaster befall them. About 5 per cent of those over 65 suffer from dementia

and about 1,500 people are in a permanent vegetative state.

In 1993, three of the law lords in the case of Tony Bland, the Hillsborough victim who was in a vegetative state, confirmed that patients could express such wishes.

In another case, a court accepted a girl's insistence that she did not want a Caesarean section, having established that she was competent at the time of the decision, free from undue influence and intended the refusal to apply to the circumstances which later arose.

In framing his Bill, which is likely to be preceded by a consultation document, Lord Irvine could well draw on the proposals put forward by the Law Commission in 1995.

That called for reforms to give people greater control over medical decisions and improved protection for the vulnerable. As well as statutory rules on living wills, it called for new laws to ensure adequate supervision of medical decisions taken about an incapacitated patient. Those would include sterilisation, organ donation, abortion and the withdrawal of artificial feeding from people in a permanent vegetative state.

People should be allowed to appoint attorneys to take decisions on their behalf about money, medical treatment, where they should live and who they should see.

## New speed record for Thrust

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT

THE RAF fighter pilot Andy Green drove his Thrust SSC car on the fastest officially timed run in land speed racing history yesterday, but missed breaking the sound barrier by a frustrating 0.003 per cent of the speed of sound.

Aiming for a 766mph run, the squadron leader achieved a breathtaking, but still apparently subsonic, 749.687mph. Timing officials gave the run a provisional Mach 0.997.

Two further runs over the 13-mile course on Nevada's biggest dry lake bed were expected last night, aiming at 782mph or Mach 1.036. Team members insisted that they heard a double sonic boom as Thrust passed through the measured mile on its first run, although other spectators heard only the twin-engined British jet car's roar.

After three days of wet and windy weather and a tense two-day wait for the desert to dry, team members were delayed for another three hours yesterday morning before the go-ahead was given for the vehicle to be towed from its tent home.

## 'Modern Kitchener' woos minorities

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A 25-YEAR-OLD Army captain, born in Ghana and brought up in Barnet, yesterday became the Army's modern version of Field Marshal Lord Kitchener in a campaign to boost the number of black and Asian members in the service.

Captain Fidelix Nelom Kwame Datson, who came to Britain with his parents when he was three, appears in place of Lord Kitchener above the famous First World War slogan "Your Country Needs You".

In September 1914, Earl Horatio Kitchener of Khartoum and Broome, then Secretary of State for War, appealed to the young men of Britain to fight for their country.

Yesterday, the face of Cap-

tain Datson of the Royal Artillery stared out from a similar poster in an appeal to young blacks and Asians to join the Army, which currently has fewer than one per cent from ethnic minorities.

General Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, announced at a press conference to launch his equal opportunities action plan that he wanted to increase the number of blacks and Asians in the Army sevenfold within five years.

Captain Datson was also introduced as the officer who is to head an ethnic minorities recruiting team that will tour the country as "role models", to try to persuade black and Asian youngsters that the Army is not a racist organisation.

Captain Datson comes from an army background. His father, Emmanuel, was a conscript in the Ghanaian Army for eight years, finishing his time as a corporal, before moving with his wife, Gloria, and young son to live in Britain.

"They were happy when I told them I had made up my mind to join the Army and were especially happy when I said I had been selected to go to Sandhurst," Captain Datson said yesterday.

Captain Datson, who is single and lived in Harlesden with his parents when they Continued on page 2, col 4



Captain Datson: role model for minorities

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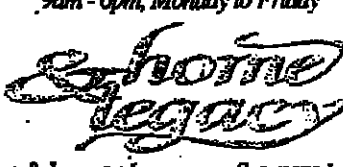
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# Europe presses Britain to join EMU in 1999

BY CHARLES BREMMER AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Government came under mounting pressure from European colleagues last night to sign up to a single currency in 1999 after evidence that it would meet all the economic criteria in time.

European Union finance ministers seized on a report showing that Britain is on course to meet the Maastricht convergence requirements and urged Gordon Brown to join the first wave of economic and monetary union. Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, said: "The overwhelming majority of

members think monetary union would be stronger with Britain in it." Jean-Claude Juncker, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, added: "It would be in the best interests of Britain and of Europe."

However, Mr Brown stuck to the official line that British membership in 1999 would be very unlikely because of formidable obstacles. Government sources in Strasbourg suggested that he would make an announcement as early as next month on Britain's position; he is expected to indicate that Britain is favourably disposed to a single currency, but give no indication of when would be the right time to

enter. But yesterday Mr Brown merely insisted that the country was on course for long-term economic stability and growth in or out of economic and monetary union. "The UK has set in place in the past few months the foundations for a period of sustainable growth."

Both the Treasury and Downing Street dismissed further reports yesterday that the Government will join EMU soon after 1999. Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, called on Mr Brown to be more specific. He said that it was clear the Government had reached a conclusion to "abolish the pound" soon after 1999.

Yesterday EU ministers gave their

blessing to the official report showing that on all three key single currency requirements — low inflation, low national debt and low annual public deficit — Britain is on course to meet the Maastricht criteria.

But the Luxembourg session was coloured by bitter complaints from Germany and Austria which claim they shoulder an unfair burden in EU funding. The tension is expected to rise today when the Brussels Commission publishes economic forecasts that are expected to show that all 15 EU states except Greece are likely to qualify for entry to monetary union. Like Britain, Sweden and Denmark are planning to stay out.

Mr Juncker gave a sign of the growing irritation across the EU towards what is seen as the Government's appointment of itself as a leader, while it continues to sit out monetary union. "We hope that Britain will be a motor and not on the last wagon of the train," Mr Juncker said.

"I certainly would not claim on behalf of my Government any idea that I was leading Europe."

A Dutch official uttered a similar view, saying: "The Brits seem to want to have it both ways. They want to stay out of EMU at the same time as lecturing everyone that they know best on how to run the economy."

# Carey urges Church to learn from Diana grief

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury last night called on the Church of England to learn the lessons of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, when millions of people estranged from organised religion expressed spiritual beliefs and yearnings.

Condemning the "prolonged wordiness" of many Anglican services, Dr George Carey outlined a programme to draw in those disenchanted by their local church. Worship should become more accessible, simpler and more beautiful. Clergy and churchgoers must stop talking in an "ecclesiastical code" which excludes outsiders.

He singled out for praise the small but growing number of vicars who are holding services in pubs, supermarkets and on the streets.

Dr Carey, who oversees a Church that attracts just over 2 per cent of the population each week, said the reaction to the death of the Princess showed that there was still a groundswell of deep religious and spiritual belief.

He praised the Dean of Westminster, Dr Wesley Carr, for inviting Elton John to sing at her funeral service.

Dr Carey's lecture, delivered at St Helen's church at Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, marks him out as a reforming archbishop. But he is likely to arouse opposition from those in the Church unhappy about the secular nature of the funeral, who point to the contribution of a pop star and the lack of a sermon.

A senior clergy member of the general synod has described the service as "more like *Desert Island Discs* than a funeral."

But Dr Carey said Elton John's inclusion was right. "All credit to the approach which can embody such an element where it felt natural and where it evoked such emotions in a way that nothing else could have done."

He said the response showed that people wanted to take part in rituals. "We must make more space for people to open their hearts to God and express themselves — and not be content simply to offer our own established rituals on a take-it-or-leave-it basis."

He said the response to the Princess's death was "humbling, astonishing". Mingling with the crowds outside Westminster Abbey on the evening before the funeral service,



Dr George Carey before last night's lecture in Leicestershire. He condemned the wordiness of many services

people spoke freely to him of fears and hopes "in terms that penetrated beyond the surface of things to the meaning of life and death."

His address comes as the Church, through the synod, is revising its liturgy for the year 2000, when the authorisation of the 1980 *Alternative Service Book* expires. The ASB, a product of the liberal 1970s, is now widely considered to be dull and uninspiring.

Dr Carey, in his address, did not refer directly to the ASB but called for the work of novelists, artists, poets and musicians to a church which meets in a converted pub, or the

simple ways of talking about our faith need not be banal or ugly, they too can and should be beautiful," he said.

Already, new marriage and funeral services have been drawn up and sent to 800 parishes for experimental use. But Dr Carey's address indicates that he wants the Church's new liturgies to be far more radical than simply changing a few words around to make them more "inclusive" or politically correct.

He is known to admire innovative services such as those at Christ the Vine in Milton Keynes, a church which meets in a converted pub, or the

recent harvest festival held in an Asda superstore in Reading. He also welcomes innovative clergy such as the Rev David Foster, vicar of St Andrew's, High Wycombe, who is holding regular "worship walks" on Sunday mornings, taking his services onto the local streets.

Dr Carey wants also to see more churches holding annual "memorial services", to which all members of the local town or village who have been bereaved in the past 12 months are invited. Such services have been found to attract hundreds of people, reaching far beyond regular worshippers.

Dr Carey's chaplain, Canon Colin Fletcher, who held such a service regularly in his former post as vicar of Holy Trinity, Margate, said: "When a comparatively small percentage of this country comes to church, you ask questions about why the rest do not."

His public affairs secretary, Dr Andrew Purkis, said: "It is not a question of chucking things out, it is a question of diversification. He is a reformer and a moderniser, and the whole experience around the death of the Princess of Wales has in his view given more momentum and urgency to that."

# Ministers aim to beat clock in Lords reform

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government is planning to overhaul House of Lords peerages to pave the way for an influx of Labour peers. Ministers want to simplify the 370-year-old introduction ceremony, which they believe takes too long.

New peers, clad in ermine and ceremonial robes, process round the chamber with Lords officials, read their oaths of allegiance, and are then led to their seats. They sit, stand up, doff their hats, and sit down again three times before processing to shake the hand of the Lord Chancellor. The process — depending on the age and agility of the peer — lasts 15 minutes on average.

Any change to the ritual will anger traditionalist peers and prompt fears among the Tories that Labour is streamlin-



Lord Richard: favours changing the ceremony

ing procedures to make it easier to flood the Lords with new peers. But the move would be severely hampered by existing Lords conventions that limit the number of introduction ceremonies to just two a day. The difficulties surrounding the ceremony are

illustrated by the large number of new peers being introduced this autumn. From today, when peers return to Westminster after the summer break, some 57 new peers from John Major's resignation honours list and Mr Blair's working peers list have to be introduced by Christmas. Such is the shortage of time that the convention is being breached with an average of three peers being introduced each day.

Lord Richard, the Leader of the Lords, will raise the issue of reforming the introduction ceremony at a meeting of the Lords Procedure Committee tomorrow. Although he will not table formal proposals, he is known to favour reform.

"The ceremony has not been changed since the 17th century," a Labour source said yesterday. "He thinks there is a case for doing so."

# Ethnic campaign

Continued from page 1

came to Britain in 1975, was educated at Christchurch Church of England School and Woodhouse sixth form college in Finchley, and then Barnet further education college, before joining the Army. He went to Sandhurst in 1992. Lord Kitchener was educated at the Royal Military Academy Woolwich, and entered the Army with a commission with the Royal Engineers.

Captain Danson has two younger sisters, but neither has indicated a desire to enter the Army, despite the Government's determination to boost the number of women in the services.

Of his new role, he said: "I feel honoured to be chosen for the recruiting poster. We've already started going round schools and kids definitely seem to be interested in what we have to say. Personally, I have never had any negative responses in my army career. It's all to do with personality."

I've got on because of my personality."

The Army has 1,064 black and Asian soldiers — of whom 112 are officers — which is 0.98 per cent of the total manpower. This compares with 349 in the Royal Navy (0.77 per cent) and 771 in the RAF (1.36 per cent). About seven per cent of the population in the recruitment age range are ethnic minorities.

The Army does not monitor black and Asian representation by regiment, but the Household Cavalry currently has none. A few army units, such as The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, have recruited a significant number from minorities.

At yesterday's press conference Sir Roger was accompanied by Bob Purkiss, a Commissioner at the Commission for Racial Equality. "We have to eliminate the enemy within," he said, in a reference to members of the army who were racist.

# Media giants line up for women's magazine sale

BY RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

SOME of the country's best-known magazines, ranging from *Country Life* and *Marie Claire* to *Woman* and *TV Times*, could be for sale in a media auction that might raise more than £800 million.

Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch information group, is believed to have been looking at the possibility of a sale for some time because consumer magazines do not fit well with the group's concentration on professional and scientific publishing. A sale began to look even more likely yesterday after Reed Elsevier announced plans for a £15 billion merger with the Dutch publisher Wolters Kluwer, which also specialises in professional and scientific information.

Although everyone involved yesterday emphasised that no decision had yet been taken,

all the signs were that the "for sale" sign will soon go up at IPC, Britain's single largest stable of consumer magazines, which sell more than 10 million copies.

The 70 titles range from *Horse & Hound*, which increased its sales by 24 per cent in the first half of the year to 69,037, and the raucous young men's magazine *Loaded*, which increased its sales by 59 per cent to 380,420. Within the woman's weeklies market, IPC has held on to a 43 per cent share with *Chat*, *Woman*, *Woman's Realm*, *Woman's Own*, *Woman's Weekly*, *eva* and *Now*.

At the other end of the market, *New Scientist* posted another circulation record in the first half of the year with 125,155. Such a stable of magazines could attract some of the

leading media players in the world. In Reed Elsevier's 1996-97 results, the consumer division, which consists overwhelmingly of magazines, has an operating profit of £78 million on sales of £499 million.

Magazines have been one of the success stories of the British media with consumers' loyalty to their favourite publications remaining high throughout the recession. According to the Periodical Publishers' Association, total spending on consumer magazines is more than £1.28 billion a year.

IPC is even planning to launch a new title on October 23: *Made Up!* — *The Makeover Magazine*, a fashion and beauty magazine aimed at 16 to 24-year-olds.

Merger details, page 71

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# Surgeons 'cost lives by denying their failings'

Accusation on heart babies could change the way that operations are monitored, Ian Murray reports

TWO senior surgeons carried out complicated heart operations on babies when they must have known that far too many of their patients were dying, the General Medical Council was told yesterday. The two men were said to have ignored warnings from colleagues that their performance was well below the national average, and gave parents far too rosy a picture of the babies' chances.

The case is likely to be followed by a review of operating procedures in Britain, and of the ways in which surgeons' performance is judged. The council was told that a number of children could still be alive today if changes were made earlier.

Warnings were also said to have been ignored by the chief executive of the Hospital Trust where the two surgeons worked. He should have stopped the operations but failed to do so, the Council's Disciplinary Committee was told by Roger Henderson, QC. The two consultant surgeons, James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana, and the chief executive of the Bristol Healthcare Trust, Dr John Roylance, are all accused of serious professional misconduct. The committee, which expects the case to last until early in the new year, will decide whether the doctors should be struck off the medical register after hearing evidence about 53 operations on babies, 29 of whom died and four of whom suffered serious brain damage.

Mr Henderson said that all the doctors were dedicated and methodical in their work but "the tragedy is that their results were disastrous". Not only did a high proportion of the babies die, but there were cases of severe brain damage among the survivors.

There was no national register of the number of babies who suffered brain damage caused by operations, so there was no way of comparing how well these doctors had performed, but that did not lessen the tragedy. "Throughout this case we will be buffeted by the cross-currents of anguish and distress," he said.

Babies operated on by Mr Wisheart for hole-in-the-heart operations had a 50 per cent chance of survival, compared with a national average of just over 83 per cent, Mr Henderson



James Wisheart



John Roylance



Janardan Dhasmana

son said. The bad performance rate on the patients treated during his long slow operations was noticed by Dr Stephen Bolsin, an anaesthetist working with him. He was perhaps an unattractive whistleblower, Mr Henderson said, but the fact remained that he drew attention to the fact that Mr Wisheart was performing badly.

"It was and is the overriding duty of a doctor to look after the interests of patients even if that involves shopping a colleague," Mr Henderson said. "The bottom line is the safety and the best interest of the patients concerned."

In February 1993, when Mr

Wisheart carried out his 11th hole-in-the-heart operation since 1990, he had a mortality rate of 45 per cent. Between then and August 1994, he carried out a further four operations on young babies and they all died, raising the mortality rate to 60 per cent. At that point, did he stop carrying out these operations? Mr Dhasmana, 58, had far better results with this type of operation. His mortality rate was about 10 per cent, which was better than the national average and far better than Dr Wisheart, who was nevertheless his senior at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. However, Mr Dhasmana began trying a brand new kind of heart surgery involving switching the main arteries in babies who have been born with them reversed.

He began on older children with some success, but in January 1992 he started on newborn babies. He had a number of successes which gave him confidence and optimism but "sadly that proved to be ill-founded", Mr Henderson said.

Of the 13 newborn babies on whom he operated, nine died and one of the survivors was left with very severe brain damage. Nationally, the average survival rate was nine out of ten. Mr Henderson said that expert witnesses would give evidence that a number of children "would have been alive today" if a more experienced surgeon had operated.

Despite two visits to Birmingham to see an expert performing the open-heart surgery, it would be the Council's case that he still did not have sufficient experience to continue the complex operations. At one time, two babies in every three were dying after Mr Dhasmana operated more than six times the national level. The committee would have to ask itself: "Did Mr Dhasmana operate beyond the limit of his clinical competence or technical expertise?" It was the Council's case that he had done just that.

In the end, Mr Dhasmana decided to stop operations on newborn babies but continued with older children until January 1995. An operation on an 18-month-old boy, in which Mr Wisheart assisted, ended when the boy died on the operating table. At that point Mr Dhasmana decided not to

carry out the operation again. Colleagues said that the operation appeared to be beyond his clinical expertise.

Dr Roylance was the chief executive of the trust throughout this time, and had been made aware of the concerns of the anaesthetist Dr Bolsin in August 1990. A succession of other doctors also told him that they were not happy with the cardiac unit's performance. Dr Roylance, 67, had taken no action. Mr Henderson said: "He abrogated his duties and failed to do what he should have done."

The General Medical Council alleges that Mr Wisheart, Mr Dhasmana and Dr Roylance failed to act in the best interest of patients by allowing the operations to be performed. Mr Wisheart is also accused of misleading parents about the risks of mortality and brain damage, and his ability to perform the operations.

Mr Henderson said that a patient should expect to be told what had happened to others who had undertaken a similar operation. Mr Wisheart had failed to do this, because he did not seem to appreciate the mortality rate of his operations nor the risk of brain damage.

The mother of one boy, Matthew Rundle, had written to the council saying that she had been told by Mr Wisheart that her son would have a 90 per cent chance of recovery. This was five times higher than the rate of recovery of babies who were being operat-

ed on by Mr Wisheart, and he did not give her the true picture.

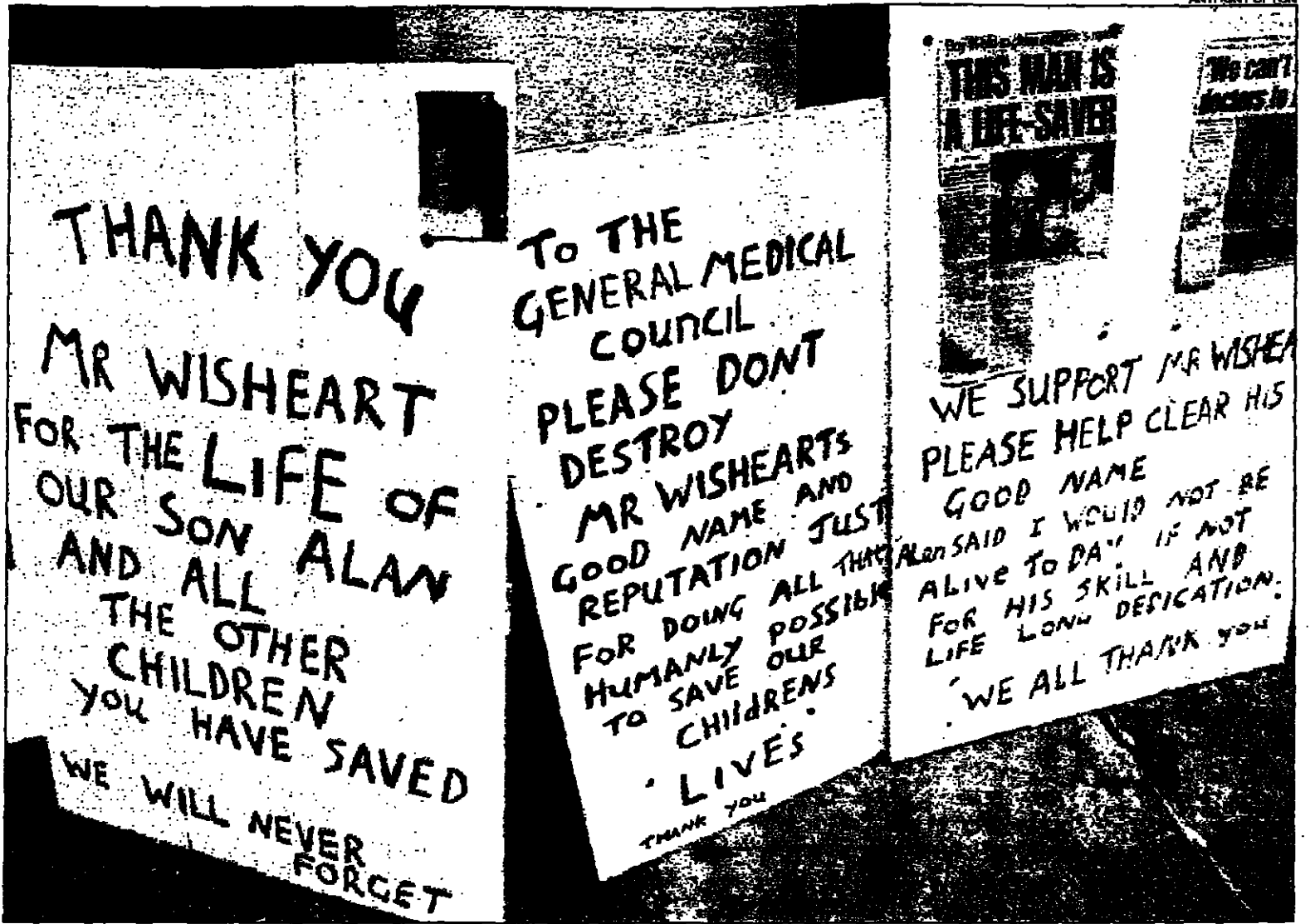
In talking to the parents of another baby, Ian Stewart, he was said to have minimised the risk of brain damage. The parents consented to the operation with disastrous results. "He is grossly brain damaged and a quadriplegic," Mr Henderson said. "The family's emotions are riven by what has happened to them."

He said that the two surgeons eventually decided to give up their cardiac operations on babies after the death of Joshua Loveday in January 1995.

"With the benefit of hindsight Joshua's operation should not have taken place at all," Mr Henderson said.

Long before then, both the surgeons had been given simple warnings that their performance in the operating theatre for this time of operation had been well below the sort of standards that should have been expected of them.

All three men deny serious professional misconduct. The hearing continues tomorrow.



Protest placards in favour of Mr Wisheart yesterday. The hearing was told that the doctors were dedicated, but the results were disastrous

## THE CHILDREN WHO HAD SURGERY

Name	DOB	Operation Date	Date of Death	Name	DOB	Operation Date	Date of Death
<b>Mr Wisheart's patients</b>				Alistair Maycock	17.08.88	09.04.91	08.02.96
W1	2.06.89	23.04.90		Richard Ellis	29.12.90	18.08.91	
Sam Sellers	23.08.89	02.07.90		Andrew Harrison	04.10.91	17.12.91	17.12.91
Laure Dunne	16.07.90	20.12.90		Craig Hunt	29.01.91	14.01.92	
J McClellan	28.11.89	14.02.91		Sian Collyer	18.01.92	30.01.92	31.1.92
David Burton	10.01.90	28.02.91	7.03.91	D16	14.07.88	02.04.92	
Sophie Whiting	10.03.88	28.03.91	28.03.91	Richard Davies	23.05.92	28.05.92	09.06.92
Jack Burrows	17.04.91	19.12.91		Danielle Morgan	17.02.92	02.06.92	
S Richard	14.02.91	3.02.92	3.02.92	Oliver Langsdon	01.06.92	12.06.92	06.07.92
William Scawin	03.04.91	30.03.92	28.04.92	Jason Bwy	20.07.92	28.07.92	28.07.92
Karina Deane	09.01.92	14.12.92		Kimberley Harris	04.09.92	12.09.92	12.09.92
W11	10.04.90	11.02.93	14.02.93	Adil Haq	26.03.91	17.09.92	Brain damaged
W12	19.05.92	6.05.93	6.05.93	Kristian Dixon	30.05.91	15.10.92	
Harvie Shopland	04.08.92	15.07.93	12.08.93	D24	21.01.93	26.01.93	
Matthew Rundle	05.08.93	28.03.94	5.04.94	Maxine Roche	10.08.92	09.02.93	25.04.94
Hanna Silcox	23.11.93	25.09.94	25.09.94	Jonathan Steel	13.03.93	23.03.93	
<b>Mr Dhasmana's arterial switch operations</b>				Sophie Edwards	31.03.93	06.04.93	06.04.93
D1	May 87	22.02.88		Ryan Watts	04.04.93	09.04.93	
D2	June 87	29.02.88	29.02.88	Carley Jones	07.02.92	13.05.93	
D3	1983	05.09.88		Daniel Willis	18.05.93	25.05.93	25.5.93
D4	July 88	04.10.88	04.10.88	Thomas Pottage	03.07.93	13.07.93	13.07.93
D5	Sept 88	10.01.89		Martin Adamson	28.04.93	27.07.93	
D6	1987	14.02.89	21.02.91	D33	10.08.93	02.09.93	
D7	01.08.89	02.05.89	02.05.89	Niall McKelvey	27.09.93	12.10.93	12.10.93
D8	June 88	11.07.89		Emily Jackson	18.01.94	24.03.94	
D9	Oct 88	14.11.89	29.11.89	Ryan Walker	06.04.93	16.06.94	17.06.94
Cheryl Wedge	08.05.86	27.02.90		Max Johnson	29.11.93	30.06.94	12.07.94
				Joshua Loveday	22.06.93	12.01.95	12.01.95

## Student takes mother to court

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A STUDENT is suing his mother for maintenance today in an attempt to force her to contribute to his living costs while at university.

Patrick Macdonald, 20, a law undergraduate at Aberdeen University, claims that he needs £400 a month on top of his £1,739 annual grant to meet his "substantial outgoings" including rent, food and textbooks. He has been given legal aid to fight the case at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.

A writ served last week on his mother, Margaret Macdonald, 53, of Edinburgh, said she was "well able to afford the aliment (payment of maintenance) sought". She is a Scottish Office solicitor salaried at grade six, earning between £29,000 and £30,000 per year, and the family home is worth about £230,000.

The rare case is being brought under the Family

Law (Scotland) Act 1985 which gives children rights to sue their parents over matters such as education fees up until the age of 25. Legal experts believe that it is one of the few cases of its kind in the UK. Usually things such as education costs are negotiated by spouses on behalf of their children during divorce proceedings.

Mrs Macdonald, who has four other children, is contesting the claim. She has had little contact with her son for more than four years, since he went to live with his father, Hugh, 54, at the age of 16. The couple were divorced in 1994.

She won custody of all five children and pays annual school fees of more than £8,400 for the two youngest, a son, 16, and daughter, 15. Her two eldest daughters support themselves at university through part-time jobs and student loans.

## Club sued over male-only rugby

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

BATH Rugby Club is being sued by a mother who was banned from accompanying her 12-year-old son's team on a tour of Ireland because only fathers were allowed to go.

Joan Ward, a divorced mother of three, has won the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission to pursue the case against the club, whose adult team includes many of the country's best-known players.

Mrs Ward was furious when other parents voted that the presence of women would hinder "male bonding" during the under-12 side's Irish visit last year. She had wanted to accompany her son Jim but her ex-husband Chris, a coach with the adult squad, got to go instead.

Bath Rugby Club has more than 150 boys and girls aged between seven and 12 in the mini-rugby side and places on the annual tour are fiercely

contested. The row led to the resignation in May of Danny Sacco, the youth team's coach. Mr Sacco, 41, said yesterday: "This is political correctness gone mad. The boys and their fathers should be allowed to bond together. As a result the tour was a great success."

In November 1995 a meeting of mini club members' parents voted unanimously that the tour to Kinsale, Ireland, the following April should stay all-male. Although the mini-rugby club allows mixed teams there has only been one girl player to have won a place on the annual tour. But Mrs Ward refused to accept the decision and took the case to the Equal Opportunities Commission, which is paying her legal fees.

The case has already been before Bath County Court for preliminary hearings. A date has yet to be fixed for the full hearing.

## Veggie scholarships left on shelf

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

TWO scholarships for vegetarians to a leading public school have been unclaimed for at least four years.

Wycliffe College in Gloucestershire began promoting a meat-free diet in Edwardian times, when, in 1909, the headmaster, George Sibly, opened a vegetarian house for boarders. The £1,000 scholarships are untouched despite the popularity of vegetarianism today.

David Prichard, the headmaster, said: "The scholarships have been unclaimed for the four years that I've been here and it is a puzzle. Perhaps we haven't marketed them as much as our music, drama and sporting scholarships."

For years the boys of Springfield House

appeared to prove Sibly right that vegetarianism was good for you by winning most of the school's sporting trophies. He kept charts purportedly showing that this was thanks to the diet.

Although Springfield House stopped being vegetarian in 1980, when the college built a new dining hall, several of the school's most successful athletes do not eat meat. They include twins who won the national boys' and girls' squash titles earlier this year, and Felix Hammick, 18, the 1997 British Tetrathlon champion.

But Mr Prichard suspects his predecessor may have gone to some lengths to promote vegetarianism. He said: "It was not unknown for him to bring the best athletes into Springfield to beef up the sport teams. I gather some of them would slip through the back door to satisfy their

need for meat, and were not vegetarians during the holidays."

The Vegetarian Society said: "I'm astonished the scholarships are not more popular. There are now some four million vegetarians in Britain. Back in 1900 we only had 700 members. George Sibly would have been seen as a brave pioneer."

In 1909, lunch would consist of a savoury dish with nuts, lentils, egg, or cheese, with baked potatoes and vegetables. There might be stewed fruit with soya-bean custard to follow. In the evening there might be salad with cheese, bread and nut rissoles.

A spokesman for the Independent Schools Information Service said: "Wycliffe College's vegetarian scholarships are certainly the most unusual I have come across."

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## Teenager repeats attack at car park



# Denver killed in plane he may have built himself

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN RENO

JOHN DENVER, one of the most successful American folk singers of his generation, has died in a single-engine plane crash off Northern California. He was 53.

The two-seat, glass-fibre aircraft, which was described by local police as "experimental", went down close to the rocky Pacific shore north of Monterey shortly after 5pm on Sunday.

Mr Denver's death had not been confirmed yesterday morning by the local coroner, but a family friend told reporters: "He was on the plane and he perished." The singer was apparently alone in the aircraft.

After taking off from Monterey's municipal airport, Mr Denver's aircraft, which may have been home-made from a kit, was seen to falter in flight over a popular scenic promontory known as Lover's Point. It

"went up a little bit and then straight down", one witness said. "Not spiralling, just straight down. I thought it was some kind of aerobatic move, then realised it wasn't." Lieutenant Carl Miller of the Pacific Grove Police Department said that when the plane hit the water "it broke into numerous pieces".

The pilot's body was unrecoverable when it was recovered from the water on Sunday night. Dental and fingerprint tests were due to be performed yesterday to confirm the identity of the victim, and local authorities were expected to resume their search for debris.

Last night tributes to the singer flowed in. President Clinton said he was saddened by Denver's death. "His soaring music evoked the grandeur of our landscape and the simple warmth of human love."

He opened many doors to understanding among nations."

James Galway, the flautist, said John Denver was the man who helped to launch him to worldwide fame. Mr Galway, 57, had an international hit in 1978 with his arrangement of Denver's *Annie's Song*, which reached the top three in the UK charts.

He said: "This news is a very great shame. John Denver was one of those artists who made a lasting impression on his listeners as his songs stayed with them. He will be very sadly missed."

Phil Bowdery, Mr Denver's London-based British promoter, who had known the singer for more than ten years, said: "He was a great man who will be remembered for some great songs."

Obituary, page 23



John Denver with Kermit the Frog while recording a Muppets Christmas television special in November 1979

## One man refuses DNA test for killer

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ONE MAN in the French town of Pleine Fougères has refused to volunteer for DNA testing in the police hunt for the killer of the British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson.

The entire male population of the town aged between 15 and 35 — 170 men — was invited to provide a saliva sample, to be compared with the DNA of the man who raped and killed the 13-year-old girl in the town's youth hostel last year. The identity of the lone individual who declined to appear has not been released.

"Only one person did not show up, and he was free to do so. That person can change his mind," an investigator in the case said. Police say that no pressure will be put on the man to be tested, but the investigator noted that "he may find himself in a difficult situation with people in the village".

The results of the tests will be available at the end of this week. If no match is obtained, tests on men aged from 35 to 60 will be carried out.

### STARS KILLED IN AIR ACCIDENTS

Stevie Ray Vaughan, the blues guitarist, was killed in a helicopter crash, along with Eric Clapton's agent, tour manager and bodyguard, after an open-air concert in 1990.

Rick Nelson, the pop-turned-country singer, and six others died when their DC-3 crashed on the way to a gig in Dallas in 1985.

Lynyrd Skynyrd, the American rock group, lost three members on a flight to a concert in Louisiana in 1977.

Otis Redding, the soul star, was found at the bottom of a lake in Wisconsin after his plane crashed in 1967.

Jim Reeves, the country and western star, died when his single-engine private plane crashed near Nashville in 1964.

Patsy Cline, the pop/country singer, died in a plane crash in 1963.

Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper died in 1959 when their plane crashed shortly after take off in Iowa.

Glenn Miller, the Big Band leader, disappeared during a flight from England to France in 1944. His body was never found.

## Teenager repeats attack at car park

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUTH who dropped a scaffold pole 50ft from a multi-storey car park, badly injuring a boy, carried out a similar attack within months of his release from detention, a court was told yesterday.

Robert Devonshire dropped a 10 in concrete block on to a 64-year-old man at the car park in Wakefield, west Yorkshire, six months after he had been released from a young offender institution after nearly killing Simon Teece, 8.

Devonshire was sentenced to four years' detention for the first attack in September 1994 in which the 13lb metal pole fractured the boy's skull, putting him in a coma. He recovered after treatment.

In the second attack, in

February, Bernard Atkinson, a safety officer at the car park, was hit as he investigated the theft of a car. Yesterday at Leeds Crown Court, Devonshire, 18, admitted grievous bodily harm with intent.

Judge Brian Walsh, the Recorder of Leeds, adjourned sentence for 28 days for psychiatric reports.

After the hearing Mr Atkinson said: "I was struck a glancing blow on my shoulder. When I turned round there was no one there. I then realised it was a concrete block." He was treated for a muscle injury.

Barbara Teece, 40, Simon Teece's mother, said yesterday that she was shocked by the latest attack.

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# Pastor fined for trying to heal dog with prayer

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A PASTOR who tried to heal her alsatian through prayer as it lay injured in the road has been banned from keeping dogs for two years. Sheba, a white five-month-old bitch, was in agony with a broken leg after being hit by a car, but the Rev Alison Brown refused to call a vet.

Mrs Brown and two fellow believers spent almost an hour praying over the puppy as it howled with pain. She took Sheba back home where she continued trying to heal the leg for another two hours while speaking in tongues.

Mrs Brown, who described herself as pastor in charge of the Devon-based River of Life Ministry, told a neighbour who offered to help that he should leave because he was not a Christian. She told an RSPCA inspector who was called that his fingers were "instruments of the Devil".

Mrs Brown, 42, of Newton Abbot, Devon, was found guilty by Exeter magistrates of causing unnecessary suffering

and was fined £250 with £270 costs. The dog, which made a full recovery after being seized by the RSPCA and having a steel pin inserted in the broken right front leg, will be found a new home.

Mrs Brown wore a brooch bearing the name Jesus in court and insisted on swearing the oath on her own Bible. She quoted from Deuteronomy, Isaiah, St Mark's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles during her defence.

Peter Williams, the neighbour who called the RSPCA, said he had been trying to treat the injured dog when Mrs Brown arrived. "The dog was yelping and crying and was in quite a lot of distress," he said. "Brown brushed her way through the crowd, put her hands on the dog and started chanting religious sayings, and said, 'Satan, get out of this animal'."

"There was talk in what sounded like Arabic and then she asked me if I was a believer, and when I said no



Sheba: it yelped in pain after a road accident

she very brusquely asked me to leave the scene.

"I looked out later and I saw three of them trying to lift the dog and make it walk again. The dog yelped and someone put their hands around the injured leg and I could hear further prayers and chants. Every time they tried to make it stand up the dog yelped."

Inspector Stephen Roach of

the RSPCA said that he went to Mrs Brown's home three hours after the accident, when the dog was "crying out in pain and could not stand up. I asked to take the dog to a vet but Brown said no and told me she believed in divine intervention. When I told her about the laws concerning the protection of animals, she replied 'God comes first'."

Bob Barker, a vet called by the RSPCA, said that Brown told him that his negative thoughts were undoing the healing she had already achieved.

Mrs Brown, who has a degree in theology from Exeter University, said that the dog had been bought in the hope that it would attract interest from the public during outreach missions. She said that she had carried out healing missions and had helped blind people to regain their sight.

Mrs Brown added: "I have had the Lord heal my broken ribs and my verrucas and various other things wrong with me. I have no doubt of the healing power of Jesus." She

said that she had cured the dog on a previous occasion when it had been concussed by a heavy gate falling on its head. "The Lord loves his creatures and Sheba would have made a full and total recovery."

The RSPCA had applied for costs of £2,134 but Brown told the court that all her property and income from social service benefit had been handed over to the church. Muriel Wiseman, a magistrate, said: "Rev Brown, we would point out to you that you are not on trial for your beliefs in any way but we do find you guilty of causing unnecessary pain and suffering to a dog."

"If your income had been greater I can assure you this penalty would have been considerably more."

Mrs Brown, who sang hymns while the magistrates were considering their verdict, said after the case: "The Lord has told us to appeal. I believe what took place here today is that I have been tried for my faith in the healing powers of Lord Jesus Christ."



Alison Brown arriving at court yesterday. "I have had the Lord heal my verrucas"

## Soldier escapes jail term for Cyprus brawl

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

A BRITISH soldier was fined less than a month's wages by a court in Cyprus yesterday for starting a brawl outside a disco in which two South London tourists suffered horrific injuries.

Three other soldiers were acquitted last month when prosecutors accepted that they had been mistakenly picked out of a police identity parade. The trial of a fourth was indefinitely suspended.

The outcome of the case dismayed the victims as well as army chiefs in Cyprus who have never disputed evidence heard in court that eight off-duty soldiers were involved in the brawl on August 2. They are searching for ways to take legal action against men that military investigators suspect have escaped justice.

A custodial sentence would have brought automatic dismissal from the Army for Private Roger Bell, 26, from Liverpool. He walked from Larnaca court with a broad

smile after Judge Michalis Christodoulou told him it was with "great difficulty" he had decided not to jail him.

Bell faced a maximum three-year jail term for attacking Barry Ford, 23, and his girlfriend, Claire Harbour, 22. He switched his plea to guilty after prosecutors reduced the charges to actual bodily harm from grievous bodily harm. He was fined £900, about £60 less than his monthly take-home pay.

Afterwards Ms Harbour said: "Bell is an absolute thug and he'll do it again. We are incredibly disappointed by the way this case has gone." She had told the court how Bell had attacked her boyfriend, Mr Ford, outside the disco and then pinned her to the ground while other soldiers kicked and punched him unconscious.

Mr Ford needed 22 stitches to his head and face, while their friend, Shane Bell, had his jaw broken in three places.

## New gene linked to Alzheimer's is found

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

OXFORD scientists have discovered a gene that multiplies the risk of getting Alzheimer's disease.

People over the age of 65 who carry the new gene and another Alzheimer's gene — about 6 per cent of the white population — have a 30 times greater chance of developing the disease than those without it.

David Smith, whose team at the Department of Pharmacology made the finding, said

that the products of the two genes combine to increase the danger. "If we can understand how the interaction works it might be possible to develop a drug that interferes with it," he said. But he thought it would be 15 to 20 years before a treatment became available.

Screening people at high risk would be pointless in the absence of an effective treatment, he said. The type of Alzheimer's involved is that which develops in old age, not the early-onset version, which seems to have different causes. About six million people in the European Union have the condition.

The finding, published today in the journal *Human Molecular Genetics*, is the result of a long-term study at Oxford supported by the drug company Bristol-Myers Squibb.

### Omni-SAL

Saliva Diagnostic Systems developed the Omni-SAL saliva collector (report, October 9). Another company, Cozart, has perfected a test for drugs of abuse using a saliva specimen collected by the Omni-SAL "lollipop".

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# Countdown to Dome's Day 1999 begins a little late

Damian Whitworth sees that even a crane drivers' tea break cannot halt the raising of the dome

THE Millennium Dome began to rise from a patch of Greenwich wasteland yesterday as its creators insisted that the project would meet its immovable deadline and stay within budget.

Nevertheless, the erection of the first support mast for the giant structure was not without delay — and an attack by the Opposition on the Government's handling of the project.

The world was given its first glimpse of work on the controversial edifice as the first of 12 90-metre, 105-tonne steel masts — twice as tall as Nelson's column — was winched into the sky.

But with dozens of shivering journalists and project workers watching, and with all the talk of the New Year's Eve 1999 deadline, it was perhaps inevitable that there would be a hitch. The wind made the delicate operation difficult and then the operators of the giant crane disappeared for a tea break.

The mast was due to have "landed" on its pyramid base at 10am, but when most journalists left an hour and a half later it was still apparently suspended above it. A spokesman insisted later that the mast was "officially" in place — "the spike was in the hole" — at 10.30am, just half an hour late.

But that the mast was up at all was of great symbolic and morale-boosting importance to the beleaguered scheme. "This is a shot across the bows to all the doubting Thomases,"



The first of 12 masts goes up at the Greenwich site

said Mike Davies, of the Richard Rogers Partnership, who designed the dome. "We meant business, and here it is."

Mr Davies said the chilling wind that whipped across the desolate peninsula was exactly the reason why he had conceived a dome structure. "I decided immediately on coming here for the first time that you had to have everything

under one roof," he said. "There isn't a point over 200ft between here and Helsinki and the easterly wind is not warm."

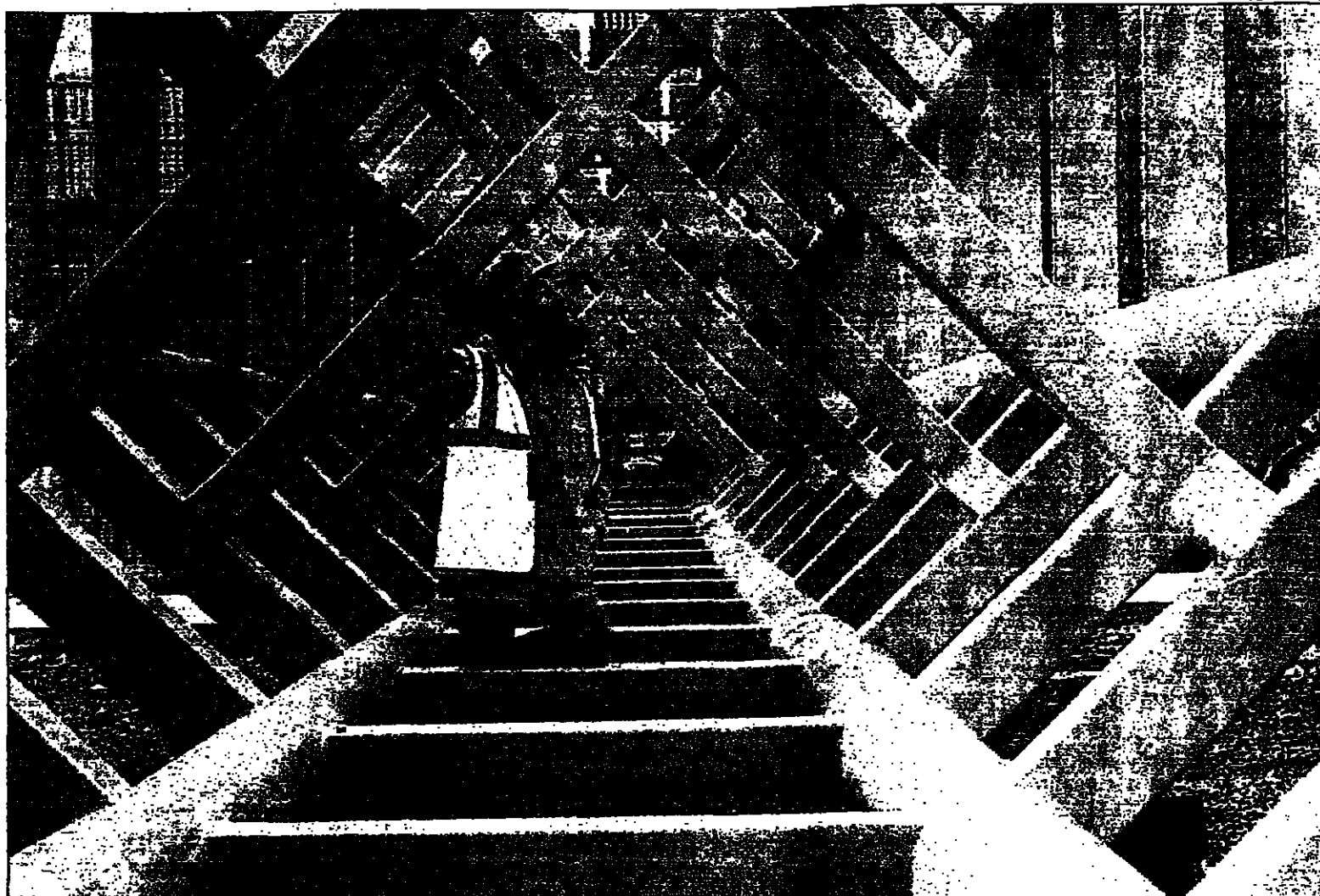
The day also demonstrated what a change of government can do to a project such as this. At the beginning of the year the speculation was all that Labour might not back the scheme. Now, the Government is fully committed to the project but the Tories are questioning its future.

"Contracts have been cancelled. There has been a lot of dithering on major decisions," said Francis Maude, the Shadow Culture, Media and Sport Secretary. "The essence of this project is that it is incredibly tight in terms of budget and in terms of timetable, and a Millennium Dome that does not get built until the year after the millennium is not going to be a lot of use to anyone."

Mr Maude criticised Peter Mandelson, the minister in charge of the dome, for his allegedly secretive approach. "One of the problems is that it is incredibly difficult to find out anything that is going on. Peter Mandelson doesn't come to the House of Commons to report on what's going on," he said.

"This project is set to swallow up a large amount of lottery money — which spread more widely could buy a huge amount of small-scale projects for other people."

But Mr Maude denied that the Tories would be withdrawing



Mike Davies, dome designer, inspects one of the 90-metre masts. Progress had confounded the doubting Thomases, he said yesterday

their support. "We are not going to be irresponsible about this. We want to understand properly what's going on," he said. "It was an idea produced by Michael Heseltine and it was in many ways a visionary and inspirational idea."

Jennifer Page, chief executive of the New Millennium Experience, insisted that there should be no fears about the project missing its deadline or going over budget.

"This is a huge project going ahead at a fantastic pace. It will be on schedule and the company is committed to delivering it within the budget of £78 million. Francis Maude said that there was a lot of concern about the project and there are proper channels for the public to be informed of its progress. We will respond to any invitations to go before them and report."

She added: "The whole of the Millennium Commission's activities, including the exhibi-

tion, were intended to be non-political. The Millennium Commission has not only government ministers, but also a representative of the Opposition on it." It would be a great shame, she said, if the project became mired down in politics. This was a unique opportunity for Britain in the year 2000.

The countdown to Dome Day, December 31, 1999, is as follows:

□ Early November 1997, all 12 support masts erected, work starts on the steel skeleton.

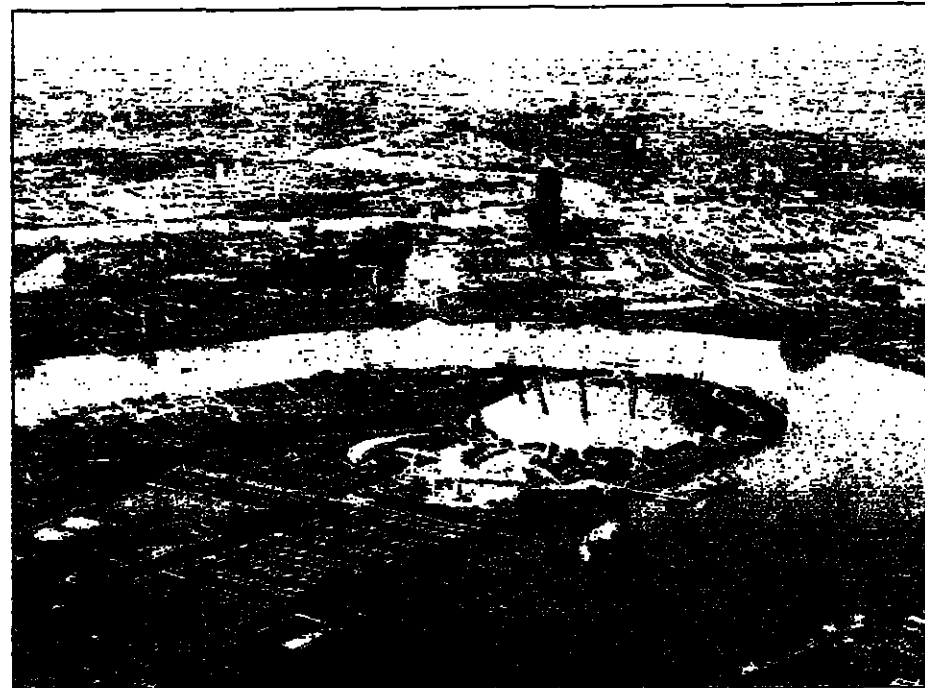
□ Spring 1998, glass fibre canopy raised.

□ Autumn 1998, ventilation, electricity, lighting, lavatories and other services installed, work begins on nine exhibition zones.

□ Autumn 1999, dome completed in time for rehearsals.

□ December 1999, open days for residents of Greenwich and the press.

□ December 31, 1999: dome opens.



The finished building as conceived by the design consultants Hayes Davidson

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# Footballer sues over tackle that broke his hopes

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FOOTBALLER whose leg was broken in seven places by a tackle launched a claim for compensation yesterday in a case which could have wide-spread repercussions on the game. Ian Knight is seeking damages which reflect the earnings he could have commanded as a top-level player, put by one estimate at £1.5 million.

If the claim brought by the former England Under-21 and Sheffield Wednesday central defender is successful, then not only will players have to look closely at how they challenge opponents, but clubs could face costly insurance bills to ensure they are protected against similar actions.

Mr Knight, 30, now coaches the youth side at Grimsby Town. At the High Court in Sheffield, he is suing the former Chester striker Gary Bennett and the club over the



Knight seeks damages estimated at £1.5 million

injuries he received within three minutes of the kick-off of an FA Cup fourth-round replay in February 1987. Mr Bennett and Chester deny responsibility.

A film of the incident from the BBC Sportsnight programme was shown in slow motion to the court. Mr Knight said that Mr Bennett

"took off" as he ran in to challenge him. His studs struck Mr Knight's leg a third of the way up his shin. "He should have tried to block the ball with the side of his foot. You have no control if you jump."

"I grabbed my leg and I knew something was badly wrong. It was loose, it was like holding raw meat."

After the fracture, bone protruded through his flesh and sock. Howard Wilkinson, then the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said that Mr Bennett was booked but should have been sent off: "I am not insinuating that he intended to injure the player, but I believe he intended to make the jump tackle."

Colin Mackay, QC, for Mr Knight, said: "Alan Smith, the England physiotherapist, said it was probably the worst injury he had seen in the English game. This was a so-called over-the-top tackle after



Knight lies injured after the cup-tie tackle which he claims ended his hopes of reaching international stardom

the ball had gone. Gary Bennett never touched the ball. Professional football was Mr Knight's life and it effectively ended that night."

Mr Knight was on the verge of a highly successful career, he said. "He was the sort of player who could expect £300,000 a year and, if he is one of the fancy ones, up to

£1 million a year. His challenges for his place in the international side were people like Tony Adams, who received his 48th international cap in Rome last Saturday."

He spent six months in a plaster cast from his groin to his ankle, then a cast on his lower leg before graduating to crutches and a stick. While

convalescing in June 1988, he stepped off a kerb and fractured an ankle bone, but by October he had fought back to fitness and played a reserve game. But his leg broke again. By 1992 it was obvious he could not play with safety, and he signed on the dole.

Mr Mackay said he intended to show that Mr Bennett —

who now plays for Preston North End — had been reckless or careless in the way he challenged Mr Knight. They accepted he had not deliberately tried to injure the player. He planned to show there was a duty of care for players, even though they took part in a physical contact sport. The hearing continues.

## Stressed student set fire to house

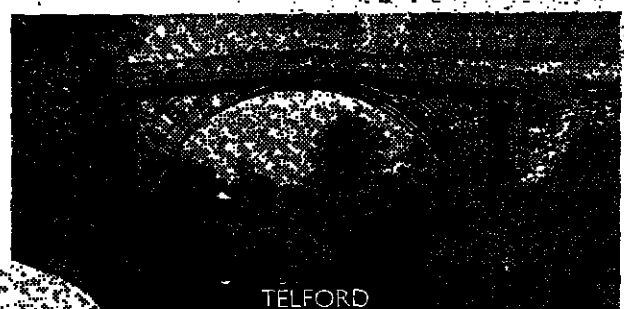
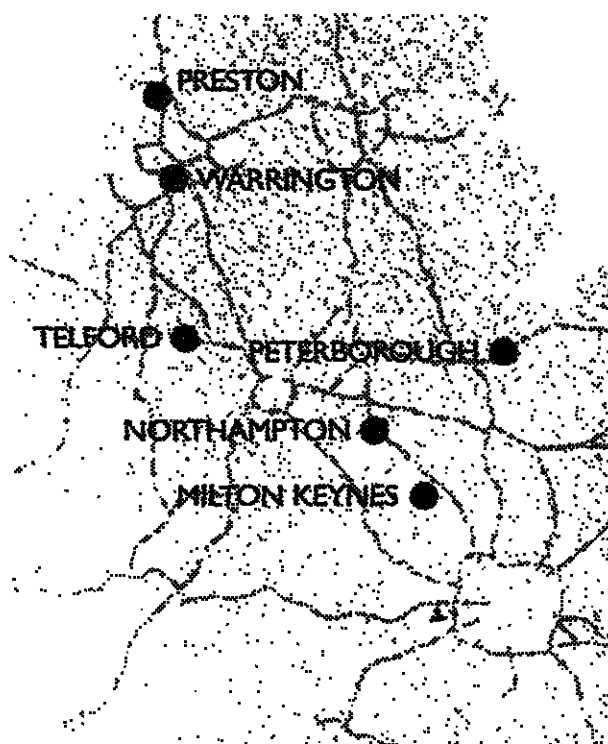
By RUSSELL JENKINS

A STUDENT cracked under the pressure of his teacher-training course and set fire to the house he shared with two other students in an attempt to murder them, a court was told yesterday.

Patrick Casey, 25, of Blackburn, set off a crude fire bomb at the house in Windermere, Cumbria, after Tracey Brewer, 23, and Maria Shaw, 22, both third-year students at the Charlotte Mason teacher-training college in Ambleside, near Windermere, told him that they were moving out. He left the burning house to catch a bus to visit his mother, intending to say goodbye to her before killing himself. But the students managed to escape by climbing through a bathroom window and summoning help. Carlisle Crown Court was told.

Casey, who held a crucifix in his hands and sobbed as details of the plot were outlined, pleaded guilty to two charges of attempted murder. He was remanded in custody and will be sentenced later.

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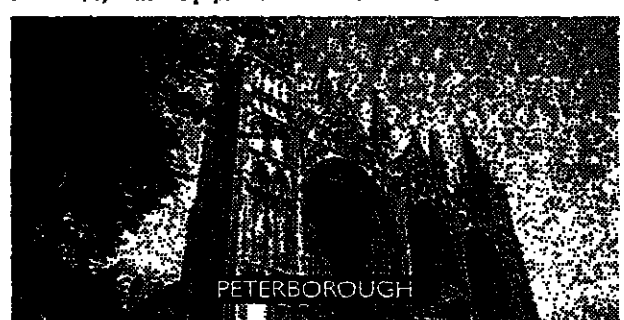
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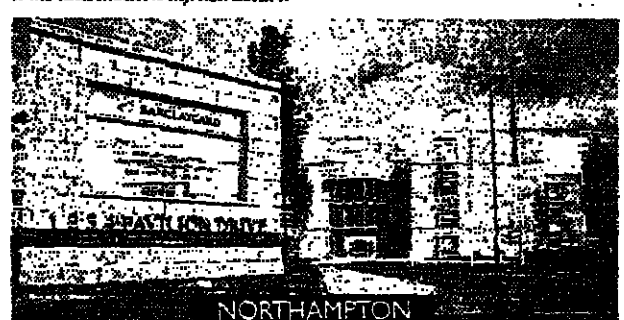
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## 'Inept' Nigel Dempster fined for contempt

By EMMA WILKINS

NIGEL DEMPSTER, the veteran gossip columnist, was fined £10,000 and reprimanded for his "ineptitude and negligence" by a judge at the High Court yesterday.

Judge Richard Walker ruled that Dempster and Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, had committed contempt of court over an article which alleged that Baron Steven Bentinck, a millionaire businessman, had been mean to his ex-wife.

Baron Bentinck, whose title is Dutch, was seeking to have Dempster jailed for contempt and to sequester the assets of Associated Newspapers.

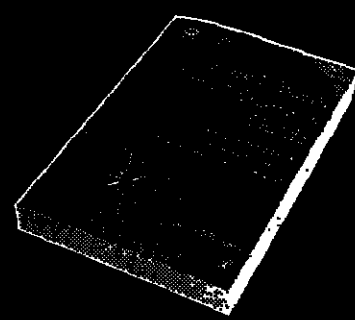
The judge told Dempster he had escaped prison because his contempt owed more to ineptitude than wilful disobedience. "Had I been satisfied that he had wilfully breached the order I would have committed him to prison for a considerable period of time," he said. He concluded instead that "his conduct was characterised by ineptitude and negligence".

Dempster and Associated Newspapers, which was fined £25,000, were given 14 days in which to pay. The court was told that



Dempster reprimanded by judge for negligence

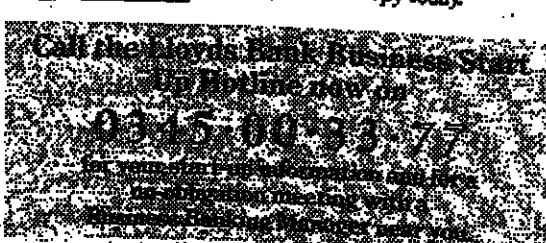
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"The blonde bombshell": Ball jokes about her early start

## Evans above in pop radio's duel at dawn

IF YOU listen to broadcasting executives and their marketing types, breakfast radio on pop music stations is about playing the right music, understanding the audience and having the right presenter. In the real world it is about having the right presenter, having the right presenter and having the right presenter.

The music is pretty much irrelevant. Indeed, there is limited time for music because it would get in the way of the presenter, who give the impression of being paid by the word. The audience is important, mostly as a statistic but partly because it gives the presenter someone to interrogate, and hopefully embarrass, down a telephone line.

Unfortunately for the BBC — and for Radio 1 in particular — the right presenter has in recent years become a euphemism for "Chris Evans". Not having Chris Evans, which is the BBC's current

*Peter Barnard analyses the virtues of the tried and tested versus the radio virgin over the breakfast turntable*

condition, is therefore an euphemism for being at the heart of darkness.

Having Chris Evans is a state enjoyed since 7am yesterday by Virgin Radio. Evans left Radio 1 nine months ago. He wanted Fridays off and he wanted to start work at 7am rather than 6am. He also wanted to continue sailing close to the wind on-air, something that had brought a serious twitch to the face of the dear old BBC, which is 75 this Saturday.

At Virgin, Evans starts work at 7am and gets Fridays off. As for sailing close to the wind, within an hour or so of yesterday's opener, he had invited a caller, a woman who has just had a breast-enlarge-

ment operation, to come to the studio tomorrow to have her bandages removed during the programme. The caller, need I add, agreed.

Or was that just a stunt? I know not, neither do I care. I do know that Evans is a brilliant broadcaster who has elevated banality almost to an art form. He was only telling the truth when he opened up his show with the words: "I think I have a vague idea how to do this... we're on Virgin Radio but we're not radio virgins."

By that time, the breakfast show on Radio 1 had been under way for half an hour with two new presenters, bringing to four the total the network has tried

since Evans left. Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening are the double act now, but Ball provides the glamour. She is supposed to halt the audience decline.

Ball is, er, a radio virgin. But she has television experience, presenting BBC's children's show *Live and Kicking* and Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*. Her voice is smoky, a higher-pitched version of Mariella Frostrup. She says "yeah" a lot.

Greening and Ball are competent, but they need to shed self-effacement very quickly. Ball's parting remark that "We love you and we hope you'll stay with us, we will get better" was one of several that hit the wrong note. An audience like this needs belief, not doubt.

The Evans trick is to be confident and risky. Radio 1's problem is that, if it was prepared to be risky, it would not have a problem, because it would probably still have Evans. Work that one out.



"The ginger whinger": Evans at work after his late arrival

## The easy rider returns to hit easy targets

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS EVANS immersed himself in controversy again yesterday, using his new show to mock politicians, fellow performers, ex-loves and his old employers at the BBC.

The irreverent disc jockey criticised Radio 1's playlist, and claimed he had volunteered to be fired by the station's controller Matthew Bannister, to let Bannister demonstrate his authority to his BBC seniors. Mr Bannister had a different story to tell. He claimed that only two weeks ago, Evans's agent had inquired whether the DJ could have his old job back.

Virgin executives had an uncomfortable few minutes waiting for their new star to arrive. He finally turned up at the Soho studios less than five minutes before going on air, riding a moped and giving a peace sign to photographers. On air, the man censured several times by broadcasting watchdogs for his risqué style was straight back to form, saying that Tony Banks should be sacked as Sports Minister, and that William Hague should go on the show "to say he is a raving homosexual — I'm not for a minute suggesting he is, just that it would be good for business."

He recited a dismissive rhyme about pop star Kim Wilde, his ex-girlfriend who has since married, and teased his crew about their love lives, reminding listeners about his former relationship with colleague Holly "Hotlips".

GMTV's Lorraine Kelly was attacked as "just dreadful", and Chris Tarrant, breakfast DJ on London's Capital Radio, was described as "a great broadcaster — and he gives away money, which is great for one person, but really dull for everyone else."

He said of Mr Bannister: "He said we were pushing the boundaries far too far — although '92 had saved the station and his job — and now we had to stop doing what we do best. I said, 'I can't do that. Between you and I, the best thing you could do now is get rid of me, because I have delivered the audience, then you can show your authority.' That's what happened."

Mr Bannister said he had been contacted two weeks ago by Michael Foster, Evans's agent, asking whether he would consider Evans for the Radio 1 breakfast show. "I phoned him back and said, 'I can't think about it — I'm committed to my new team.'"



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# Floating hotels plan for refugees

Valerie Elliott on a scheme to hold 300 asylum seekers on the Thames

HUNDREDS of homeless asylum-seekers could be housed in a floating hotel on the Thames. The plan to accommodate nearly 300 foreign nationals on offshore platforms designed for oil rig workers is being examined by a consortium of five London boroughs.

The councils have been forced to look for imaginative solutions after the number of refugees being housed in the boroughs reached 15,000, costing them £100 million a year. No site has been set aside but a mooring off Tilbury docks is understood to be one of the proposed locations.

The facilities of the floating hotels used by oil rig workers in the North Sea compare favourably with those of a good hotel. They include double cabins with en-suite bathrooms and cable television, central heating, a cinema, library, gymnasium, sauna, laundry and hospital.

Westminster City Council is taking the lead on the issue after it was approached by a private firm. Alex Segal, Westminster's chairman of social services, has passed the plan to the consortium — Camden, Lambeth, Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Westminster — which will discuss the idea later this month.

Mr Segal believes that accommodation in a floating hotel would be of a much higher standard than standard bed and breakfast hotels in the capital and would cost the council less. The situation has arisen after a ruling in the Court of

Appeal last year that local authorities should house and feed asylum-seekers left destitute by the withdrawal of benefits under the previous Government. There is also a backlog of 52,000 people awaiting a decision on political asylum. The figures have escalated to such an extent that many councils are housing more asylum-seekers than homeless people. In Westminster, five asylum-seekers were being housed in August 1996. That figure has risen to more than 600.

The Home Office is being kept informed of the development. The Prison Service is already making use of a prison ship at Weymouth in Dorset to alleviate an accommodation crisis. Last night Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, said he was aware of the option. "We would want to ensure that the accommodation was adequate for refugees. We have inherited a difficult situation, and as part of the comprehensive spending review we are examining the way in which asylum-seekers are assisted and supported. We are determined that no refugees will be left destitute."

Nick Hardwick, director of the Refugee Council, said: "We are extremely concerned that asylum-seekers may be housed on a ship. It demonstrates the absurdity of the situation facing local authorities."

Last night a spokesman for Westminster City Council declined to give details of the company or the proposal because the matter was "commercially confidential".



By the left: a column of miniature Napoleonic soldiers from Malcolm Forbes's collection being inspected by Hugo Marsh of Christie's

## Marching orders for millionaire's army

By Philip Delves Broughton

A FORTUNE estimated at close to \$1 billion could have bought the late Malcolm Forbes his own private army, like that of the late Duke of Atholl. Instead, he chose to assemble the world's largest toy army, made up of thousands of miniature lead figures, guns and dioramas.

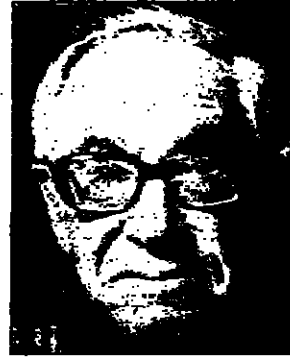
The heirs of the chairman, founder and editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine and associated media group, have decided to sell the collection through Christie's in London and New York in December.

The biggest single-owner collection of toy soldiers to come to the market, it is a powerful monument to childhood for a man who never lost

his taste for youthful excess. There are some 60,000 miniature figures, including Napoleon's soldiers, the French forces who died at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam, Beduin hordes and massed ranks from the First and Second World Wars.

Forbes, who died in 1990 shortly after celebrating his 70th birthday in Tangiers with a sumptuously vulgar party and Elizabeth Taylor on his arm, bought his first toy soldiers in the early 1970s on a whim — impulsively sticking up his hand at an auction. When he looked at the box of battered old American doughboys, he was hooked.

Forbes kept his collection at



Forbes became hooked on collecting figures

imaginative leap from the miniature to the real thing.

According to Robert Forbes, vice-president of Forbes Inc, the sale reflects his father's view of collecting. "Pop didn't believe in keeping something for ever," he said. "He believed collecting was a dynamic, evolving process — one that both interests and acquisitions can change."

Hugo Marsh, Christie's toy specialist in London, said: "One is aware of a real sense of fun that he must have had, assembling it with such style and passion."

Forbes particularly liked figures from bands of the Guards regiments and Highland regiments in action, because of his Scottish roots. There are also many Beduin

soldiers on horseback, a nod to his home in Tangiers.

The market in toy soldiers has matured considerably since they were first sold at auction about 30 years ago, a few years before William Hague decided, aged 12, that his toy soldiers were distracting him from a life in politics and sold them.

The most expensive lot is expected to be a box set made by the French Mignot company, which contains soldiers set against a background from the conflict in which Turks took on Italians in Tripoli, Libya, in 1911. This is expected to sell for more than £3,000.

It is expected that the Forbes collection will fetch about £150,000.

## Brent Spar's future still in murky water

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

AN assessment of how to dispose of the Brent Spar oil platform has failed to find an option with a clear advantage on cost, environmental and safety grounds.

Six contractors have put forward ideas for dealing with the structure.

After a campaign by Greenpeace blocked its disposal at sea in 1995, it remains in a Norwegian fjord. The solution might set a precedent for the disposal of about 50 North Sea oil and gas structures.

Proposals range from scrapping the Spar onshore to using its segments for a fish farm or sea defences. Eric Paulds of Shell said yesterday that the study

by Det Norske Veritas, an independent Norwegian foundation of marine assessors, showed that none of the eight proposals was "the clear winner". Groups in Britain and on the Continent are to be consulted before a decision is made on which option is to be submitted to the British Government. Deep-sea disposal would be the cheapest, but is thought unlikely

because of the commercial and political repercussions. The most expensive option, at £48 million, would be to tow the Spar to a yard at Nigg, Highland, where it would be scrapped. Another proposal, which appears more environmentally attractive and would cost far less, involves slicing the buoy into rings which would be used to make a quay extension in Norway.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Frenchman held over killings

A Frenchman wanted for the rape and murder of a woman, and the torture and murder of her children, aged 18 months and 4, was remanded in custody until October 20 by Bow Street magistrates at an extradition hearing yesterday. Jacques Girardin, 39, was arrested after he asked for directions at a police station in Uppermill, near Oldham. He is charged with murdering the mother in Angers, France. There was no bail application.

#### Bullying victim

Kelly Yeomans, the 13-year-old girl who took an overdose after being bullied, has been buried near her home in Allenton, Derbyshire, after a funeral service at the Salvation Army Citadel in Derby, where she sang in the choir.

#### Boy beaten

Stephen O'Grady, a former prison officer of Abbey Wood, southeast London, was put on probation and ordered to pay £150 compensation at Maidstone Crown Court for beating a seven-year-old boy with a leather belt.

#### Murder suspect

Brian Meenan, 31, wanted in connection with the murder of Veronica Guerin, the Irish journalist, will appear in court in Amsterdam today to face extradition charges. He was arrested by Dutch police on Friday.

#### Drink problem

A teacher at Woodlands secondary school in Coventry has been suspended after allegations that he sold bottles of cut-price whisky to staff and pupils. One of the pupils is alleged to have been given bottles to take to his mother.

#### Garden treasure

A 2,500-year-old Celtic stone head used by a Manchester family as a garden ornament has been transferred to a museum after being identified by a passer-by. The Iron Age head has been valued at £2,000.

Photographed at the Miramar Sheraton Hotel, Santa Monica, California



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## Visiting Clinton pleads for South American help to defeat drug barons

PRESIDENT CLINTON was due to arrive in Brazil last night after a 24-hour stay in Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, where he called on South Americans to back him in efforts to "unite the Americas", fight drug traffickers, clamp down on corruption and encourage development in the region.

In a speech made to the "peoples of the Americas" at the National Pantheon, a monument where Venezuelans honour their forefathers and historical figures, Mr Clinton charmed an audience of thousands by saying "everything is *chevere* in Caracas" — a

The President has launched his tour with talk of unity and the winning use of a little slang, writes Gabriella Gamini

slang term widely used to express well-being. "Our hemisphere is more united each day, we are joined by joint values, history and our embracing of democracy," Mr Clinton said. "Let us tear down the barriers of the past and open doors to the 21st century." The President praised South Ameri-

can countries for moving away from decades of civil war to become "peaceful, open democracies" and called on them to ensure "social justice". He praised Venezuela's efforts at reducing foreign debt and cutting inflation.

"If we stay this course in the 21st century, the Americas will be a stronghold for security and de-

mocracy in the world," President Clinton said after meeting President Caldera and before boarding a flight to Brasilia.

Mr Clinton and Señor Caldera signed agreements on co-operation in the battle against drug barons, who use Venezuela as a transit port for cocaine produced in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. They also sealed agreements on technological and educational co-operation, and Mr Clinton promised to buy more petroleum from South America's biggest supplier.

Mr Clinton is on his first presidential visit to South American countries, which will end in

Argentina on Thursday. Scheduled months ago when he still hoped to get "fast-track" authority from Congress to strike trade agreements, the trip had been expected to set the groundwork for a hemispheric trade bloc.

But Mr Clinton has arrived without the authority that would allow him to negotiate concrete steps towards his dream of a continental free trade zone. He will have to postpone this until the Summit of the Americas to be held in Santiago, the Chilean capital, in December 1998. It seems, therefore, that his tour will be marked by a series of smaller

agreements intended to establish closer ties between North and poor South America and "mend traditional fences" that have for decades divided the poorer south from the richer north.

Mr Clinton's dream of a "United Americas" echoes fears in the US that it will lose influence over the growing markets in South America. But in Brazil he may face some opposition. The continent's biggest economy is keen to steer regional policies and has refused to bring down tariffs on United States imports.

A diplomatic row over a US report to White House staff con-

demning Brazil's "endemic corruption" also soured relations. The State Department announced that the word "endemic" would be replaced with "widespread", but this has not appeased the Brazilian authorities.

President Cardoso was last night due to welcome Mr Clinton, his wife, Hillary, and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, with dinner and a lively samba show. But today the visitors are expected to broach sensitive topics, such as Brazil's burning of the Amazon rainforest, human rights violations by the police and corruption.

## Disastrous losses as fires rage on three continents

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

HUGE fires were blazing on three continents yesterday, adding to fears about the damage being done to some of the world's great woodlands and the wildlife they hold.

Hopes that fires in Indonesia were under control were dashed by reports that a big increase in the number of new forest blazes had been detected at the weekend.

The Indonesian Government feared that more fires could be hidden from satellite view by the thick haze which is still shrouding some areas.

In the Amazon basin an estimated 500,000 hectares, an area the size of Wales, was ablaze. A cloud of smog, estimated to be about a mile wide, has been hanging over the city of Manaus.

Steve Howard of the World Wide Fund for Nature blamed the fires on landowners using slash-and-burn techniques to clear trees for agriculture. A

new law in Brazil requires landowners to keep 80 per cent of their land covered in trees. But Mr Howard said the owners were waiting for the dry season before clearing the 20 per cent, then allowing the flames to rage out of control. The fund estimates that for every 200 acres legally cleared, 1,000 are burnt accidentally or deliberately.

In Kazakhstan, it was reported meanwhile that forest fires had spread to northwestern China, about 1,500 miles from Beijing. It is claimed that the fires crossed the border on Saturday. Windborne smoke is causing an increase in respiratory illness in northern Xinjiang.

In Australia, firefighters are battling to halt bushfires covering an area the size of England. The Bushfires Board of Western Australia said about 50 fires had been burning for two weeks in the



A firefighter resting after failing to save a house during battles against bushfires in Australia earlier this year. Dozens of houses were razed.

remote Pilbara and Kimberly regions. Bushfires occur there annually but landowners have described these as the worst in living memory, destroying twice as much land as the Indonesian forest fires. They have also aggravated tensions between farmers and Aborigines. Farmers suspect some of the fires have been deliberately started.

Aborigines used to start fires to drive game for a hunt and Barry Court, president of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, said it was possible this was happening again.

Volunteers and farmers were intending to start a 30-mile firebreak east of Broome, in the northwest of the state. Much of the land destroyed so far contained mainly dry spinifex, a coarse spiny-leaf grass, used as feed for stock.

In Indonesia, airports were shut down again because of the haze. Satellite pictures

showed that the number of fire spots on the islands of Sumatra, Java and Kalimantan increased from 16 to 40 by the weekend, the *Jakarta Post* said, quoting official sources. In Singapore, haze returned yesterday, despite heavy rains over the weekend, and the authorities advised the elderly and people with heart and respiratory problems to reduce physical exertion and outdoor activity.

Rains last week appeared

initially to have helped to quell the fires which have destroyed up to 1.9 million acres of forest, according to some estimates.

This came on top of efforts by about 1,000 Malaysian firefighters who were sent to Indonesia to join attempts to curb the fires and end the haze which "brought weeks of misery to neighbouring countries. In parts of Sarawak, the Malaysian state in Borneo, pollution rose to dangerous levels on a number of occa-

sions. The Malaysians have been deployed in the three provinces since September 24, helping local efforts to fight the fires, which have sent a thick haze over most of south-east Asia.

Some of the areas hit have been tropical rainforests which sustain highly sensitive ecosystems.

A local environment official said it could take a quarter of a century for central Borneo to recover.

The environmental effects of some 15,000 "man-made" forest fires detected this month by a US-made satellite used by the Brazilian authorities are being felt around the Amazon. Huge clouds of smoke, similar to those in Indonesia and Malaysia, cover a ten-mile radius around cities such as Manaus, Belém and Porto Velho.

In Manaus, hospitals are filled with old and young people suffering pulmonary diseases. Locals blame fires started by landowners, who each year cut down and burn more forest to make way for cattle ranches.

## Amazon destroyers blaze trail of ruin

Rio de Janeiro: The destruction of Brazil's Amazon rainforest has accelerated alarmingly over the past years and the Government is not doing enough to protect the world's largest tropical forest, according to conservationists (writes Gabriella Gamini).

Satellite research presented recently by the World Wide Fund for Nature in London showed Brazil's forests being cut down or burnt faster than in other countries. Of 170,000 square km of rainforest destroyed every year across the globe, 15,000 were in the Amazon basin, it said.

"Brazil's rainforest areas are being burnt down at alarming rates. It still has the biggest forest cover, but if destruction is not controlled the environmental consequences will be devastating," said Garo Batamian, director of WWF Brazil.

The environmental effects of some 15,000 "man-made" forest fires detected this month by a US-made satellite used by the Brazilian authorities are being felt around the Amazon. Huge clouds of smoke, similar to those in Indonesia and Malaysia, cover a ten-mile radius around cities such as Manaus, Belém and Porto Velho.

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### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Athens rocked by strong earthquake

Athens: A strong earthquake rocked central Athens and southwestern Greece yesterday, shaking buildings and sending people in some coastal towns running from their houses. The Athens Seismological Institute said the tremor registered a relatively strong 5.8 on the Richter scale.

Police said the only reports of damage came from villages in the southern Peloponnese, where cracks appeared in old houses. Residents, fearing a second tremor, moved into new homes with friends and relatives. Witnesses in Athens left buildings rock with enough force to shake chairs and rattle window blinds. The institute said that the earthquake's epicentre was 150 miles southwest of Athens under the seabed. One report said that the tremor was felt as far away as Crete. (Reuters)

## Congo capital 'near defeat'

Brazzaville: Forces loyal to embattled President Pascal Lissouba used a helicopter gunship to try to repulse advances in the Congo Republic's capital of Brazzaville yesterday by its former military ruler, General Denis Sassou Nguesso. Witnesses said that the helicopter fired rockets into new positions held in the devastated city centre by General Sassou's Cobra militia, who predict the capital will fall within days. Commanders in General Sassou's forces have vowed to press on with their advance and capture the international airport and presidential palace, both strategic and symbolic prizes in the four-month power struggle between the President and his predecessor. (Reuters)

## Castro endorses his brother

Havana: In rare comments about Cuba's leadership after his death, President Castro has endorsed his brother Raúl, right, as successor and urged the party to maintain unity in fighting for the revolution. "Raúl is younger than I, more energetic than I," Senior Castro, 71, said in a four-hour speech at the Fifth Communist Party Congress. There have been rumours that the President is ill, but these have been denied by officials. (AP)



## Saturn probe postponed

Cape Canaveral: Dangerously strong wind and computer problems forced NASA, the US space agency, to delay the launch of Cassini, its Saturn probe, powered by 72lb of highly radioactive plutonium. NASA said it would try again tomorrow. A lone protester, Kevin Marsh, was thrilled with the postponement. "I love it," he said. "They call it the winds, I call it the hand of God." His fellows had long fled, fearing that a launch accident would cause carcinogenic plutonium to rain down, despite NASA's assurances that everything would be safe, even if the Titan 4B rocket blew up. (AP)

## 11 killed in Egypt ambush

Cairo: In one of the bloodiest attacks by suspected Islamic militants in Egypt, nine policemen and two Copts were shot dead yesterday in two incidents in the southern province of Minya (Enad Mekay writes). Armed attackers blocked roads in rural areas, stopped taxis and forced passengers out at gunpoint, Copts and those with affiliations to the police. Dead their hands behind their back and shot them, sources said. It was thought to be the biggest number of police killed by the militants in one day.

## Slimmer Clinton impresses critics

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A NEW-LOOK President Clinton has intrigued Americans and impressed even his critics — although his shirt collars have yet to slim, too. Since tearing a knee tendon in March, the 51-year-old President has shed 20lb and improved his fitness. A recent medical check found him in robust health bar the now-famous need for a hearing aid for "high frequencies".

Now he tips the scales at about 14st, almost his weight when a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in his twenties, and 2st 2lb less than when he was elected in 1992. It is only slightly above the Weight Watchers recommendation for his age and 6ft 2½-in frame. He has reined in — at least partly — a legendary appetite for fast food.

After the accident, doctors took advantage of his immobilisation to wean him off hamburgers and barbecued pork and beans and on to trout. He replaced breakfast and lunch with brunch, and cut out dessert at dinner. So abstemious has his regime become that aides take their own salt, pepper and Tabasco on to Air Force One to live: up salt-less, fat-free



Clinton and loose collar in Venezuela yesterday.

meals. The transformation was revealed at Martha's Vineyard where he strolled on the beach in shorts, a spectacle that a year ago would have fuelled late-night comedians for months.

So proud is he of his physique, he dominates conversations with boasting about his rejuvenation, White House insiders say.

## Siege of widow has now cost \$500,000

New York: The siege by armed police, now in its fourth week, outside the home of Shirley Allen, a widow who refuses to obey a judge's order to undergo a psychiatric examination, has so far cost more than \$500,000 (£308,000) (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The stand-off, which began on September 22 after Mrs Allen, 51, locked herself in her farmland in Roby, near Springfield, Illinois, has alienated almost all of the 100 people in the village.

In their attempt to secure Mrs Allen's surrender, the police have cut off her electricity, water supply, and tele-

phone line. They have even fired teargas shells into her home and blasted her with unpleasant music. Yesterday a neighbour who attempted to break through police lines with groceries and water for Mrs Allen was arrested.

Local residents are outraged by what they see as police heavy-handedness. They say Mrs Allen has broken no law, and the court order for a mental examination was obtained by relatives eager to take possession of her farmland. A rally is planned for today outside the county courthouse, at which a demand will be made for the judge to rescind his order.

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# Britain slips in Kashmir quagmire

Christopher Thomas reports on the desperate damage control efforts by embarrassed Foreign Office officials

A FRENZIED Foreign Office damage-control exercise was under way last night as the Queen's sub-continental state visit sank into a diplomatic quagmire.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who is travelling with the Queen, said he welcomed a denial by the Indian Government that India's Prime Minister, had privately described Britain as a third-rate power and that he had attacked it for meddling in Indian affairs.

Mr Cook was widely quoted in the Pakistani press last week as saying in private conversation that Britain sought peace between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. He denied yesterday that he spoke informally to journalists. But plainly conversations did take place and the reports insist that the Foreign Secretary was not misquoted.

A statement issued by the Pakistani Foreign Office after the meeting between Mr Cook and Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and Gohar Ayub Khan, the Foreign Minister, last Thursday said that the British Foreign Secretary had offered to help to find "a just solution" in Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement said that during his meeting with the Pakistani leaders, Mr Cook had expressed his willingness to help to achieve a negotiated and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute. The statement quoted the Foreign Secretary as saying: "No doubt Kashmir was the main stumbling block in the

normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan.

"Britain would be happy to help in any manner that is possible to facilitate the resolution of the problem."

Talking to a group of journalists before his departure from Islamabad on Thursday, Mr Cook said that Britain wanted to see a tension-free South Asia. He was further quoted as saying that his country was not in a position to pressurise India for a settlement of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. "We are no more the British Empire to fix the direction of any state in the sub-continent," said Mr Cook.

The Queen has been brought into the dispute because of remarks she made at a state banquet in Islamabad last week, when she urged Pakistan and India to end their differences. This seemingly innocuous statement stung India because it served to internationalise the Kashmir conflict.

There is a growing perception in Delhi political circles that the British Foreign Office has bungled what should have been a goodwill trip by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to celebrate India's 50th anniversary of independence. The Indian press has become extraordinarily hostile as the tour sinks deeper into controversy.

Mr Cook had talks yesterday with Mr Gujral, who is also the External Affairs Minister, and declared in a statement that the "long and close ties between our two countries are based on mutual respect



The Queen inspects the honour guard at the presidential palace in central Delhi yesterday at the start of her six-day state visit to India

between two independent and equal states". Privately, Indian officials were not nearly so bland in their assessments of the relationship. They were still extremely angry at what they regard as a bias in favour of Pakistan over Kashmir.

The Queen spoke again last night about closer regional co-operation, but in far more tactful terms and without mentioning Pakistan by name. This may have been a

calculated toning down after such a strong Indian reaction to last week's speech, widely perceived in India as didactic and inappropriate during a goodwill visit.

"If countries in the region share a goal and understand that by working together they give themselves a better chance of achieving it, then historical hostilities can be buried for good," she said. "That is what we found in

Europe and it is surely true in South Asia today." Sovereignty was no longer something to be preserved in isolation.

Addressing a banquet hosted by President Narayanan in the presidential palace, the Queen came close to apologising for the "distressing" massacre of nearly 400 people in the Punjab city of Amritsar 78 years ago under General Reginald Dyer. It was a more fulsome

statement of regret than India had expected, although it will still not satisfy many descendants of the dead.

Sikhs are planning a demonstration when the Queen visits Jallianwala Bagh today, but they will be kept far away from her. They want her to issue an outright apology, although the Indian Government has made clear it does not expect one. Most Sikhs in Punjab will be satisfied that

the Queen's comments and her visit to the massacre site atone for the slaughter.

□ **Hunger strike:** Tushar Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, India's independence hero, was arrested in Gujarat after launching a fast against Gujarat government corruption. The *Pioneer* newspaper said the fast was declared illegal by the authorities, but Mr Gandhi was later released. (AFP)

## Cook accused of undermining state visit with gaffe

MICHAEL HOWARD, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, yesterday accused Robin Cook of putting his foot in it over Kashmir.

"Never in recent British history has a Foreign Secretary upset so many people in such a short time," he said. "Sad to say, a period of silence from Mr Cook would do much for Britain's standing in the world."

The Foreign Office swiftly denied reports that Mr Cook had made any public statement on Kashmir, and said that his remarks to Pakistani politicians had been in private. It said that Mr Cook had suggested nothing new on Kashmir. "The Government's position was known to both India and Pakistan from the moment it came to power."

By tradition a state visit does not involve any political negotiation. The Foreign Secretary accompanies the

Kashmir has proved a diplomatically dangerous territory for both Labour and Conservative Foreign Secretaries, writes Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor.

Queen as her adviser and does not normally hold any substantive talks. No officials from the Foreign Office are with Mr Cook apart from his private secretary and a security guard.

Kashmir is an explosive issue that has blown up in the face of British politicians before and now threatens to overshadow the Queen's state visit to India. In 1995 Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, was cold-shouldered by Pakistan after officials rejected his unacceptable remarks he made in India suggesting that old United Nations resolutions were no longer a realistic

basis for solving the dispute.

The row that has erupted in India over purported remarks by Mr Cook has its origins in Labour Party politics and intense Indian suspicions of the Labour Government. Labour has traditionally taken a line closer to Pakistan than to India on Kashmir, insisting that Britain, as the former imperial power, has a duty to help to resolve the dispute. To Pakistan, this lends weight to Islamabad's call for international mediation. To India, it smacks of interference by former colonialists.

Kashmir, together with

Cyprus, is a foreign dispute of vital electoral importance. In marginal constituencies where the ethnic vote might make a big difference, all political candidates have become experts on the issue. And Labour, more than the Conservatives, attracts Asian votes.

The party has held heated internal debate on the issue and in 1995 the National Executive Committee adopted a resolution that Indian politicians maintain strongly favoured the Pakistani position. In opposition, Labour paid considerable attention to the sub-continent. Labour politicians hosted a reception for Benazir Bhutto two years ago when, as Prime Minister of Pakistan, she made a private visit to Britain.

Kashmir was one of the issues on which Mr Cook asked for an early and thorough briefing on being appointed Shadow Foreign

Secretary. India has been intensely wary of any Labour initiative on Kashmir, believing that it is bound to be partisan. Delhi has felt more comfortable with Conservatives who spoke out little on the issue.

Preparations for the Queen's state visit to India and Pakistan have been going on for more than two years. The Foreign Office normally

has a large role in drafting the monarch's speech traditionally delivered during the banquets during such visits.

The speech would go through several versions, with the first draft normally being drawn up by the department dealing with the country concerned. It is then passed to the head of department and comment is invited from serving ambassadors, diplomats and

experts.

Buckingham Palace also has a hand in shaping the speech, traditionally a bland and upbeat assessment of British relations with the host country. By tradition, controversial political points are avoided. The Queen herself has the final say on her speech.

Leading article, page 21

## Mugabe renews threat to take land

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Mugabe vowed again yesterday to seize white-owned farms in Zimbabwe without paying compensation and to hand them over to landless black peasants.

Mr Mugabe, touring the western Matabeleland province, challenged the British Government to compensate the descendants of white settlers, who were mostly British. He said he would raise the issue with Tony Blair later this month, according to the Zimbabwe Inter African News Agency.

"We are going to take this land and are not going to pay a cent to any soul," Mr Mugabe told supporters in the small farming town of Gwanda, south of the provincial capital, Bulawayo.

But, repeating a theme he has often used in recent months, he said the Government would pay for buildings and what he termed "infrastructural development, not the soil itself."

Mr Mugabe is to meet the British Prime Minister at a summit later this month in Edinburgh.

"If the British Government wants us to compensate its children, it must give us the money or it does the compensation itself," he said.

In August, Mr Mugabe said 1,700 farms had been "designated" for resettlement. About 4,500 white farmers still own more than a third of the nation's productive land and eight million poor black people occupy the rest.

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## Judges block sales of murder book

By Ben Macintyre

A PARIS court yesterday banned sales of a book alleging that two former Cabinet ministers had arranged the 1994 assassination of a woman MP and prominent anti-corruption campaigner.

In *The Vaux Piat Affair: Murderers at the Heart of Power*, two investigative journalists, André Rougeot and Jean-Michel Verne, allege that Mme Piat, a defector from the National Front and deputy for the centre-right UDF party, was shot dead on a deserted road in the south of France on the orders of two politicians, identified only by code names.

François Léopard, the former Defence Minister and head of the UDF, and Jean-Claude Gaudin, the Mayor of Marseilles, claimed they were easily identifiable as the plot's alleged architects, and launched a libel action.

The book has provoked a political uproar in France by claiming that the two politicians called in a "hit squad" to kill Mme Piat after she discovered a plot to sell off disused military land as part of a mafia money-laundering operation in the Var region.

The Paris court yesterday ordered the book's publisher to withdraw it from sale pending another hearing on October 24. Under French laws governing press freedom, the authors must now "justify themselves by providing proof of the truth of the allegations or exonerate themselves from responsibility by proving good faith."

President Chirac led a widespread denunciation of the allegations and, in a symbolic show of support, he yesterday awarded M Gaudin the Légion d'honneur in recognition of his "fine political career".

## Kohl calls for party unity in battle for re-election

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday launched the longest election campaign in Germany's history with a passionate party conference speech that was supposed to silence critics and reassure the increasingly nervous and restless supporters of his Christian Democratic Union.

Rather than put his decision to stand for re-election as Chancellor next year to the vote, he merely stated his intention and waited for the predictably thunderous standing ovation. He called for party discipline — this is the last full conference of the CDU before the general election next September — and took a swipe at the Wild Bunch, the young rebels who have been urging radical changes.

"I insist that everyone in the party does their bit," said the Chancellor, emphasising the word everyone. "This will be one of the hardest elections in the history of Germany," he

said, and called on the party to muster some fighting spirit.

The muzzling of his critics applies also to the more senior figures in the party — prominent among them the Prime Minister of Saxony, Kurt Biedenkopf — who have begun to question the logic of introducing the euro on time.

"The euro is not only an economic but a political key to the future," said the Chancellor. "We will ensure that the euro is brought in on time and as a stable currency in complete compliance with the Maastricht treaty criteria."

The full euro debate will be started only today and is being carefully steered by the party manager, Professor Biedenkopf will, however, be difficult to marginalise since he is, in a formal sense, the host of the conference — the 1,000 delegates are meeting in Leipzig, which is in Saxony.

With 50 weeks to go before the general election, the Chancellor's message was straight-



Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, addresses the ruling Christian Democratic Union's annual party congress in Leipzig yesterday

forward. The party needed the stamina of a marathon runner; a sound, plodding pace with a strong final sprint; a clear sense of direction. Herr Kohl, in a speech that dwelt on his own contribution to German unity, indicated that he was the only person capable of the task.

He has made the euro an election issue — despite advice from President Herzog to keep it out of the firing line — because since unification Ger-

mans trust Herr Kohl on great historical decisions. That, at any rate, is the reasoning of his advisers and his opinion researchers, who believe that the euro, sold properly, can become a vote winner rather than a loser. But the key to this strategy is a consistent party line, and so Herr Kohl's news managers will be doing their utmost today to guide the debate into safe waters.

Herr Kohl's optimism about the election outcome was in-

fectious. Delegates, clutching thick files of government achievements which they are supposed to peddle in their constituencies, seemed to come away feeling that victory was possible despite almost a year of bad opinion polls. The Chancellor told them to ignore the pollsters and start campaigning now. "We have to get out there, on to the streets, and address people's fears and worries, not wait for them to come to us."

The Chancellor convinced many delegates because it was plain that he believes his own upbeat message.

The economy is recovering, with signs that even domestic consumption is improving. Herr Kohl has fought and won each of his election campaigns since 1983 on the back of an economic recovery, and the 1998 one looks set to be part of the pattern.

But so far in the conference there has been no sign that the

Christian Democrats are ready to confront the real problems of the nation. Some 40 per cent of east Germans, for example, now declare themselves dissatisfied with democracy in Germany. Unemployment — at postwar record highs — was deplored by the Chancellor yesterday, but he offered no new solutions. This is Herr Kohl's weakest point — and the biggest single factor eroding his support in the east.

## Prodi turns tough to rescue his coalition

Rome After five days of crisis, Italy's centre-left Government yesterday appeared to be moving towards an agreement with its hardline Communist parliamentary allies which would enable it to stay in power (Richard Owen writes).

But Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, issued an ultimatum, giving the Communist Refoundation until the end of today to come to terms with the Government. He said the only alter-

native was the dissolution of parliament and elections. He took a tough line over conditions for a pact, saying he would accept only "minimal modifications" to his draft 1998 "budget for Europe".

*Corriere della Sera* noted that, since he tendered his resignation last week, Signor Prodi had emerged as a steeled figure than the familiar benign, professorial figure. "At last Italy has found its leader," it said.



Prodi: an ultimatum to hardline Communists

## Employers attack Jospin's plan for 35-hour week as 'idiotic'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH employers have launched a blistering counter-attack on government plans to cut the working week to just 35 hours, claiming this could wreck the economic and monetary union (EMU) project and accusing the Socialists of "plotting" with the unions.

On Friday, Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, announced he would honour Socialist campaign pledges to cut the working week by four hours from 39 hours with no loss of pay by 2000, to the delight of his Communist allies and the unions and the fury of employers and opposition MPs.

"This was a plot between the Government and the unions to put us on the sidelines," Jean Gandois, head of the CNFP employers' federation, said, adding that the move to cut working hours was "idiotic".

The reduced work-week, the largest cut in hours since 1936 and the first since 1982, would weaken France by pushing its economy further out of step with Europe, the employers' leader claimed. "What was done on Friday constitutes a very strong threat to the stability of the euro... it could make the euro and Europe fail," M Gandois said.

Despite his attack, M Gandois resigned as head of the employers' federation after members of the group criticised him for failing to take a firmer line.

M Jospin fired back at his critics, accusing French bosses of lacking imagination. "I have to say that the employers came up with no new ideas on reducing unemployment by cutting working hours. They left me no choice," he said. With unemployment cur-

rently standing at 12.5 per cent, the Government claims the move will eventually create up to one million additional jobs without seriously affecting productivity or profits. Companies, cutting the working week and hiring additional staff, will get tax breaks and subsidies, and some Fr3 billion (£300 million) have been earmarked by the Employment Ministry to finance the programme.

But the centre-right Opposition claimed that cutting the working week would be calamitous: a view shared by some of M Jospin's more cautious Cabinet colleagues. Even Dominique Strauss-Kahn, M Jospin's Finance Minister, has called such a move "economic suicide".

"There is not a single European country today using a reduction in working time as a

means of bringing down unemployment," Nicolas Sarkozy, the Gaullist party spokesman, said. He predicted that France would be made to pay for shorter working hours with "lower salaries and more job losses".

Recent polls show that while most people support a shorter working week a majority believes it will not reduce unemployment. Unions hailed the cut in hours as a major victory and, in the words of the Communist-led CGT union, "proof that unions can have their demands satisfied when they work together".

Nicole Notat, head of the large CFDT union, said the outcome of the jobs conference had made France "the locomotive of the movement for a shorter working week", a remark M Gandois treated with scorn.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER OFFER THE TIMES

## Exclusive allocation of seats to see Shirley Bassey

Shirley Bassey, who celebrates her 60th birthday this year, is singing her heart out to audiences on a unique tour of concerts across the UK. And *The Times* has secured an exclusive allocation of seats at all her concerts next year.

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Royal Festival Hall, London £34.50 (£4 booking fee per ticket) or £29.50 (£3.50) Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, June 10, 12 and 13. VIP hospitality packages are also available at the Royal Festival Hall from £95 per person plus Vat.

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# Fury as Netanyahu misses key debate

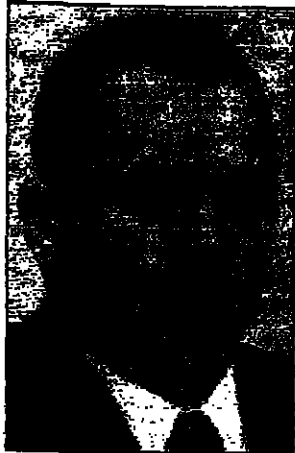
FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

OPPOSITION Knesset members yesterday called for the resignation of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, as the 120-seat parliament was recalled in special session to debate the backlash against last month's bungled Mossad murder bid against a Hamas leader in Jordan.

The angry debate was held under special conditions. Dan Tichon, of the ruling Likud Party and the Knesset Speaker, had told all whips not to reveal secret material.

Mr Netanyahu, 47, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, who has already resisted calls for his resignation over the attempt to poison Khaled Meshal, further upset the Opposition by scrapping his appearance to answer critics.

In his place was a relative political nonentity, Michael Eitan, the recently appointed Science Minister. Eitan, leader of the main opposition Labour Party, accused the



Barak said leader insulted parliament

Prime Minister of insulting parliament by his absence, while Haim Oron, of the left-wing Meretz Party, said Mr Netanyahu was a "coward" afraid to face public debate over his part in the affair.

One leading Labour MP, Avraham Shohat, delighted opposition supporters by holding up the latest edition of *The*

*Economist* which carried a cover photograph of Mr Netanyahu and the headline "Israeli Serial Bunker".

Moshe Shahal, the former Labour Deputy Prime Minister, accused Mr Netanyahu of reflecting his disdain for the Knesset by refusing to attend. Two opposition members placed separate petitions calling for Mr Netanyahu's resignation on his empty desk.

Mr Eitan struggled against opposition heckling to put the Government's case, which is now under investigation by a three-man committee meeting in camera. He accused the Left of trying to overturn the will of the voters by demanding the removal of Mr Netanyahu, who in the latest opinion poll taken after the attempted murder on September 25, had actually improved his standing so that he was running neck-and-neck with Mr Barak.

Even as the heated exchanges were under way, further hard evidence of the high price Israel has had to pay for its failed attempt to kill Mr

Meshal with a mystery poison was provided with the release of nine more Arab prisoners. The men, most of them Jordanian citizens serving 30-year sentences for charges such as possession of weapons or explosives, were flown by helicopter to Jordan.

Last week Mr Netanyahu freed Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, 61, the founder of Hamas and the first 20 of about 70 Arab prisoners due to be released as part of a deal with King Hussein of Jordan to free the two would-be Israeli assassins who were using forged Canadian documents.

Yesterday in the West Bank City of Nablus about 4,000 Palestinians attended a rally at the An Najah University celebrating the sheikh's release. Israel said that later this week the homes of three of the five suicide-bombers, whose recent attacks killed 21 Israelis in Jerusalem, will be destroyed and the fourth sealed up to make it uninhabitable. The fifth bomber has yet to be identified.

## Algerian rebels slit throats of 43 on bus

Algeria Suspected Islamic militants killed 43 bus passengers, most of them young people, on a coach which stopped at a roadblock near Sig, 180 miles west of here, it was reported yesterday.

All the victims had their throats cut. Fifteen other people were severely wounded and were taken to hospital in Oran.

The incident occurred on Sunday night and was the biggest single killing of civilians in the Oran region since the outbreak of the Islamic insurgency in 1992.

Suspected Muslim extremists were reported to have massacred 26 Algerian civilians earlier in the day, many of them at a hamlet near the birthplace of Antar Zouabri, leader of the extremist Armed Islamic Group.

Fourteen members of two families, mostly women, were attacked at Haoucha Souidani in the Mitidja farming plain south of Algiers. Newspapers said the sole surviving villager was a 14-year-old boy, who was absent when the hamlet came under attack. (AFP)

## Korean leader's son jailed for bribes

FROM JENNIFER VEALE  
IN SEOUL

ANOTHER senior South Korean was convicted of corruption yesterday. Kim Hyun Chul, 38, the son of President Kim Young Sam, was sentenced to three years in jail and fined 1.44 billion won (\$942,000) for bribery and tax evasion.

The conviction is a major blow to the President, who was elected in 1992 on an anti-corruption platform but has been rendered largely ineffectual by the controversy surrounding his son.

Kim Hyun Chul was charged with receiving 6.6 billion won from six businessmen. Prosecutors said more than 3 billion won were kickbacks and the rest donations. He failed to pay tax on some of them.

President Kim swept to office vowing to root out corruption, but despite jailing two former presidents, his standing has been eroded by scandals.



Kim Hyun Chul arrives at court in Seoul yesterday

## Shrinks gripped by anxiety crisis in feelgood New York

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

WEALTHY and neurotic New Yorkers are abandoning their psychoanalysts in droves, threatening their city's long-standing reputation as the world's "shrink capital".

According to this week's *New York* magazine, city couches have never been as empty. So acute is the crisis that many consultants are taking early retirement. According to recent studies, therapists have this year suffered an 11,000-hour drop in "patient therapy hours".

Other figures make equally depressing reading for the profession: in 1985 the average New York practitioner was seeing three patients three times a week; in 1997, by contrast, the average analyst has only one three-times-a-week patient.

As the magazine says, the days of Alvy Singer, the archetypal neurotic New Yorker from Woody Allen's *Annie Hall*, appear to be well and truly over. In the film, Singer, played by Allen, says of his longish immings on the couch: "It's been 15 years since I began. I'm gonna give it one more year, and then I'm going to Lourdes."

A Singer of today would not dream of wasting his money that way: academics have put the hypothetical total of his *Annie Hall* bills at more than \$150,000 (\$93,000).

There are a number of reasons for the transformation. First, New York itself has changed. It is more pragmatic

and sceptical, its civic postures more robust and right-wing than in the liberal hothouse of the past.

According to Edgar Levenson of the William Alanson White Institute on the Upper West Side, one of the world's premier centres for psychoanalytic training, "psychoanalysis has dropped out of the general culture". He adds that "a lot of Freud's findings have gone out - nobody believes in penis envy or castration anxiety any more".

There are non-intellectual reasons, too. Many New Yorkers who might have spent months with their therapist simply prefer to pop Prozac or Zoloft.

The emergence of "managed care" has also played a part. Under this medical system - affecting almost two thirds of New Yorkers - a health organisation gets a budget to look after a set number of patients. Budget managers have cut drastically patients' psychoanalyst visits.

There is, however, another powerful theory for the shrink's demise: perhaps New Yorkers are just feeling better about themselves.

Elizabeth Warburton, a Londoner living in the city, said: "I have friends here who have never been happier. The streets are safe and clean. There is money to be made. There are so many more choices available. Why on earth would any of them ever want to go to a shrink?"

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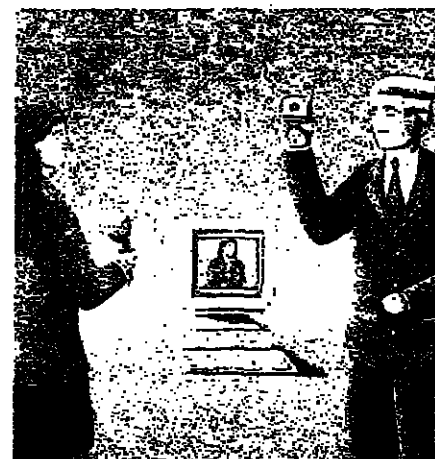
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WHAT'S NEXT?

### THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

## An evening with P.D. James

P.D. James, Britain's most popular crime novelist, will discuss her highly successful career, her life as a writer and her characters, including the famous Commander Adam Dalglish - the subject of a major TV series - in *The Times/Dillons forum* on Thursday, October 23. Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, the forum also offers the opportunity for the audience to put questions to Baroness James. The forum marks the publication of her new book *A Certain Justice* (Faber) and will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concession £7.50) which includes £2 off the price of the book. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted by sign language.



### THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Please send me tickets at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons P.D. James Forum on Thursday, October 23, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1.

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# 'I've no secrets. I wear my fat on my sleeve'

Television host Vanessa Feltz doesn't try to hide her size. Interview by Lulu Appleton

AROUND the time most people are leaving for work, Vanessa Feltz arrives at our meeting, having already been up for hours. The blonde pageboy is still intact, but the glittery evening dress, part of her Jewish Princess image for her spot on *The Big Breakfast*, has been swapped for a beautifully cut, pale coffee-colour trouser suit, worn with exquisite, pointy-toed high heels.

*Big Breakfast* presenters are required to be relentlessly "on", and Vanessa is no exception, beeping up her frenetic interviewing style with a smattering of stock-in-trade sexual innuendo. Off-screen, she is prettier, much softer, and a little sad. "This is not a good time for me," she says simply. "It's nearly two years to the day since my mother died and I'm very lonely without her. She was only 57 and had cancer. She made a staggeringly good recovery and then died in about seven weeks flat. We lived round the corner

from each other and I used to speak to her three times a day if there was nothing to say and up to 12 times a day if there was something to talk about. I saw her four times a week, and although I didn't necessarily agree or listen, I referred and deferred to her over everything."

These statements only hint at the complexity of the relationship between Vanessa and the woman who — literally — shaped her life. At 35, Feltz, a Cambridge graduate, may seem to have it all — married for 13 years to Michael, a Jewish doctor, with two daughters, Allegra, 11, and Saskia, 8, and a successful career as a columnist and TV presenter. But her size appears as a constant leitmotiv. She was once even asked by a reporter if she had become fat on purpose, having spotted a gap in the market

"My mother was hugely critical, and the antithesis of what Jewish mothers are supposed to be. I reached puberty

incredibly young and had proper bosoms at ten years old. I could feel her panic. She measured my hips when I was eight — 34in! She told me never to let them get any bigger, they must never get any bigger! She said 'Don't eat, don't eat'. She used to watch me like a hawk and I think she was rather appalled at the way I turned out."

"When your mother keeps telling you not to eat this and that, it stirs up in you a relationship with food that I honestly don't think I had to start with. I was on lots of different diets and there was a lock on the biscuit cupboard. I used to feel starved most of the time. If I was let out of the

house and had 10p in my pocket, I'd buy a Creme Egg. It was like being out on parole."

"What I think today is that my mother had an eating problem and, basically, she gave it to me. She was always fatter than she wanted to be, and she believed that had she been thinner, her life would have been better. She detected in me what she thought was the potential to become fat, and so she gave me very little food."

"When I went to Cambridge, it was fantastic to be able to eat as much as I wanted for the first time in my life, so I did. You could say, with my intelligence, why didn't I stop myself from

getting fat, but I just didn't."

"I also know that it's pretty lame to blame my mother after all these years, but it is an explanation of sorts. She was a highly intelligent, well-read woman and ought to have thought a little beyond 'Don't eat, don't eat'. I was a size 12 when I married, and today I'm not eating as much as I used to, but I don't really know why the hell I am eating."

"Maybe it's a legacy of the years when I had two little children and my husband was working long hours, and I would be sitting up at night trying to write. I'd start with a rollicking first paragraph and then the momentum would sink. I'd get up and walk to the fridge, taste a few things, eat a biscuit while strolling, which doesn't count, take another upstairs to eat while I was actually working, and by the time I'd done all that, I had thought what to put in the second paragraph."

"It's terribly sad because, as everyone probably knows, the crutch you use to kill the pain becomes the thing that causes the pain, and you eat because you're sad, then you're sad because you're fat, then you eat because you're sad you are fat and you get fatter and fatter."

Vanessa says her parents always wanted her to do something more serious. "I am not the embodiment of my parents' dreams, and I managed to upset them on an almost daily basis, with my book, with my writing, with my show. I think they believed it was sheer wilfulness that made me write something funny about matzo instead of inner-city decay, and thought it was pretty ludicrous. Everything I did subsequently was never quite what they would have liked: they would have preferred me to turn out like Doris Lessing, or someone intellectual, which is really tantamount to saying they would really have liked me to be someone else."

Vanessa is very tough on herself, and streets ahead of other people. She has to cancel our lunch, but is sharp enough to observe: "I suppose you need to see me eat?" Is it conceivable that her personality is persuasive enough to make viewers forget, perhaps not even notice, her size? Her response is blunt: "When you are fat, you wear your fat on your sleeve, inside your sleeve, on your waistline, on your bum. You don't have to confess to having a secret because everyone can see it. I'm used to it. I know what I look like. I spend hours in front of a mirror having my make-up done for telly so it's not a question of learning to accept it. When you are inside the body you don't dissect a part of yourself and say 'The brain bit isn't' — this is all me and I've no alternative."

Her new television series, *Vanessa's Day With...* begins tonight. In it, she spends a night and a day with a celebrity, plundering their underwear drawers for their deepest secrets. In fact, she begins with an interview with Boy George that is surprisingly low-key — with some pre-

dictable, self-deprecating psycho-babble about how he has given up debauchery since he became a recovering addict. The rest of the programme consists of make-up tips — and the real star of the show is his house."

She insists the show was all her own idea, and to suggestions of a comparison with Ruby Wax, she says: "The show is not like Ruby Wax. She always does a big schtick about how people interact with Ruby — my show is not about me, or how I feel about them. Absolutely not." She has unerringly tapped into the rationale that puts the viewer outside the window looking in, offering glimpses of a world they might otherwise never see. She already has her own talk show, *Vanessa*, on ITV, and during the summer months *Watchdog: Value for Money* on BBC1, her morning slot on *The Big Breakfast* on Channel 4 and now this new series on Channel 5.

The extraordinary thing about Vanessa is that in every aspect of her life, she seems utterly driven: "Until you're established, you have to prove yourself endlessly," she admits, "and I gave everything the most I could give it. The difference today is that I know what I can do, who I am. It's brilliant being recognised at Brent Cross, and anyone who says differently is lying."

"But I grew up believing that marriage was the most glamorous thing to do, and I'm glad I did marry young because it's been fantastic. When you have a husband and kids who really love you, it means that everything else you do isn't really real."

"My life is quite tough. I'm trying to be the best I can — a really nice mother who is there a lot so my children don't feel they're being rushed in and out of my life, 'honoured' to have an audience with me. I'm trying to be a good wife who is supportive, not obsessed with herself, and can give something to her husband: a good

presenter and performer so the audience enjoys the show. "I'm trying to be a decent person, with a real life, not someone one-dimensional. I would have great respect for anyone reading this who says 'Why the hell doesn't she just stop it? She's 35, she's grown up, why on earth is she whingeing about what her mother did years ago? Why doesn't she join a gym, walk instead of going in the car, lose some weight?' I would say you are absolutely right and I agree with you, but somehow it's just too difficult and I don't know why. I can't explain it, but it feels impossible."

"Allegra is going on a school trip this weekend and I told her she had no permission to grow up and do that sort of thing and leave me behind, that's not what I had in mind, for God's sake. What do I want for my children? I want them to be married and live round the corner. No, I want them to live in the same house, upstairs. I don't want them to move to Bogotá, or even another part of this country. I want them to find utter fulfillment in Finchley."

Vanessa's Day With... is on Channel 5 on Tuesdays at 8pm



Non-svelte Feltz: her size appears as a constant leitmotiv. Once she was even asked by a reporter if she had become fat on purpose, having spotted a gap in the market

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# The Booker Prize stole my summer

As one of five judges of Britain's premier literary prize, Jason Cowley had to postpone his wedding, stop writing his own novel and put his life on hold for almost a year

Wapping, London:

January 1, 1997. Returning to the office after Christmas, I find a letter on my desk. It is from Maryn Goff, administrator of the Booker Prize, and is to change my life so radically that there are moments in the coming months when I wish I'd never opened it. For I'm being invited to be one of five judges on the 1997 Booker Prize. I am astounded and alarmed. I have only recently joined *The Times*, and on Christmas Day I asked my girlfriend to marry me. How will I possibly find the time to read the 100-plus novels that are entered for the prize, as well as doing my job properly and getting married?

Manchester, January 4

Walking with my girlfriend past the bomb-shattered shell of the Arndale Centre in Manchester, I casually pass her the letter. "Booker Prize?" she says. "Why have they asked you?"

It's a reasonable question. As a literary journalist and aspiring novelist, I had perhaps one day hoped to be a judge. But not yet, not this year.

We walk in uneasy silence across St Ann's Square in the dying light of a winter afternoon. Later, sipping

champagne with Sarah's parents, we agree to postpone the wedding until next year. Then something occurs to me and I almost drop my glass: I have altered my wedding plans before seeking permission from *The Times* to be a judge.

Wapping, January 7

My telephone rings. It is a summons from the features editor. I feel like a condemned man. But it's good news: Peter Stothard, the Editor, has agreed to my being a judge. I am grateful and relieved. Let the reading begin.

Cheltenham, March 12

More than two months have passed and I have not yet received any books. Surely this is some kind of macabre joke? I'd hoped to use this week in Cheltenham to catch up on my reading. Instead, I go every day to the races; there are few better events in sport than the Cheltenham Festival. Weeks have been spent grimly scrambling around for proof copies of possible entries. What if I'm reading the wrong books? Each publisher enters two novels, and any previous winner or shortlisted author in the past decade. The trouble is many publishers delay making submissions until after their books are reviewed.

My anxiety is eased, though, when Barna Boy, on whom I have £20, wins the last race of the festival at 16-1.

Savile Club, London:

March 19. I meet my fellow judges for the first time at an elegant lunch hosted by Maryn Goff. They are Professor Gillian Beer, the writer Dan Jacobson, the novelist Lady Rachel Billington, and the *Independent* on Sunday literary editor Jan Dalley. The early conversation is reserved and wary; there is much sympathy for Graham Swift, whose *Last Orders* won the 1996 Booker Prize. John Frow, an Australian critic, unfairly accused Swift of plagiarism, highlighting similarities in structure and subject

matter between *Last Orders* and *As I Lay Dying* by William Faulkner.

I leave the lunch thinking that we are a peculiarly unbalanced panel: there was too much of an establishment feel about our discussion, a sense of literary insouciance. I hope we don't end up producing the kind of wordy shortlist that resembles a British Council writers' tour.

Sawbridgeworth,

Hertfordshire, March 24

I arrive home to find that, at last, the first box of books has arrived. I open it in a rapture of discovery. Two hours later I feel defeated by the banality of what I have been reading, a thin autobiography posing as fiction. I fear what lies ahead.

The Imagination Gallery,

London, April 21

At a party, I am approached by the novelist Joseph Connolly, whose novel

*Poor Souls* is published by Faber. Resembling Karl Marx in an Armani suit, he is suspiciously friendly. Shortly afterwards, a postcard arrives from Amanda Craig, bafflingly thanking me for a piece I wrote about her more than six months ago. Of course, her novel, *A Vicious Circle*, is eligible.

The Prix Goncourt, the premier literary award in France, is famously beholden to cliques and insiders. So I brace myself for a summer of backhanders, bribes, exotic dinners, girls, champagne. But no, nothing happens. The Booker, I can report, is gloriously free from corruption.

Royal Overseas League,

Piccadilly, July 1

Boxes of books are arriving, via courier, at a disorientating rate. I sit in my study in the shadow of towering towers of unread books. I haven't written a word of my novel for months. Wherever I go I am asked about the Booker. Even when I play cricket there is no release; I cannot help thinking that I should be elsewhere, reading.

I do nothing but read. I wake early, exhausted, to read. Why am I exhausted? Well, because I stayed up late the previous evening reading. The long days of summer are lost to me now. I have a powerful sense of life being elsewhere. I am becoming a Booker bore.

So it's with irritability that I arrive for our latest meeting. Reassuringly, none of us feels we have read enough. Yet we begin discarding the unanimously loathed. We are merciless, ruthless, brutal. Books that have taken years to write and hours to read are dispatched in minutes.

The real battle, though, lies ahead. We fight most for the books we like.

Savile Club, September 15

This is our fourth and most important meeting: from 16 titles we must choose six. Debate is fierce but good-humoured. There is scarcely any consensus. Judges glower and fret as favoured titles slip out of contention. Yet, after four hours, we are no closer to agreeing a shortlist. This is troubling: the list is to be announced live on Radio 4's arts programme, *Kaleidoscope*, in less than an hour.



Previous winners include back row from left: William Golding, Pat Barker, Graham Swift and Salman Rushdie; front row from left: Anita Brookner, Iris Murdoch and A.S. Byatt

Exasperated, we stumble on an impromptu marking system, evaluating books in the manner of ice-skaters. The first round of this farago is inconclusive, although front-runners are emerging. Under the eye of the clock, we vote again. The second round almost produces a shortlist — yet Ian McEwan, much admired by certain judges, is not on it. There is dismay; irritation.

I am left with a powerful feeling of bad faith and say so

am amused, compelled and perplexed to read of the annual trashing of the shortlist. No one seems to like it. One critic, Peter Kemp in *The Sunday Times*, even calls it "laughable". I receive personal abuse, too. *The Independent's* books editor, the *Literator* (I know who this is, but shan't say), calls me the "lightweight" on the panel, claiming to have spotted me at a party

"feigning literary erudition". As one of the three youngest judges in the history of the prize (I am 31), I make no claim to heavy-weight status. Still, I make a note to swallow a mouthful of helium on the night of the award dinner.

Elsewhere, Catherine Lockerbie of *The Scotsman*, a humourless nationalist, blames me for the exclusion of *The Untouchable* by John Banville. "Cowley cannot grapple with art at the deepest level," she says, commenting on a mildly critical review I wrote of Banville. Chuckling, I order another cold beer, delighted that I am, for the moment, a long way from literary London.

Sawbridgeworth, October 13

It's the eve of the Booker Prize dinner, and I am at home rereading the shortlist. Tomorrow we meet at Guildhall to select our winner. It is a profound responsibility: win-

ning authors are guaranteed an enthusiastic readership and often become millionaires. There is Hollywood interest, too. I have a favourite, but what if my fellow judges conspire against it? Can I submit to the discipline of collective responsibility, or will I, as have previous judges A. N. Wilson and Robin Julia Newberger, break petulant rank?

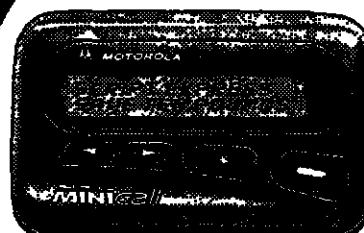
People often ask if I've enjoyed being a judge. Well, there are clearly too many entries, 106 this year. This voracious inclusiveness must seem like a good idea; and every judge hopes to find their own *Lord of the Flies*. But to retain credibility and the calibre of judging, Booker must embrace reform.

Yet reading so many novels is valuable because it tells you so much about contemporary literary culture: its wariness of the present, its narrowness of vision and fatigue, its suspicion of originality.

What I'll remember most, though, is not the slow grind of a lost summer, the public vilification of the shortlist or the time wasted reading books I loathed. It's the small things: the moving sense of camaraderie among the panel, the passion of argument and, absurdly, the moment when my chair suddenly collapsed as we were poised to agree on the shortlist. After so much dreamy debate it was somehow salutary to be returned to earth with a resounding thud. Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of my life.

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# Don't be too vague, Mr Hague

Tories must be firm on family values, says Malcolm Rifkind

It is right for the Tory party to learn from the lessons of its defeat and to present itself to the public in a tone, and with a language, that will help its revival. It is also common sense to reach out to individuals and groups who, in the past, have felt unable to identify with Conservatism: in doing so, however, we must take great care not to forsake principle in the pursuit of popularity, nor weaken fundamental values that may, temporarily, be out of fashion.

Most of what has been said over the past week is a breath of fresh air. There is, for example, urgent need for more Asians and blacks to participate in public life and in positions of responsibility in Parliament, in the Armed Forces and in the Civil Service.

During my time in Government I saw no evidence of deliberate discrimination in senior appointments in the Army or the Diplomatic Service. The problem was that relatively few members of the ethnic minorities had chosen these professions and those who had were still in the early stages of their careers. However, there remains a serious problem. The Tory party should champion an urgent recruitment drive and practise what it preaches when selecting councillors and parliamentary candidates.

I welcome, also, the new tone on single mothers. In the past we have given the impression that all single parents have chosen their lifestyle. The reality is quite different. Many are widows or wives who have been deserted by their spouses. Despite this, we often used language that implied that their circumstances were their own fault and that they should not look to the State or to the community for help.

Great damage was also done by the response to Margaret Thatcher's memorable remark that there is no such thing as society. Her words were taken out of context and disgracefully misrepresented but the public sensed, perhaps correctly, that the Tory party had become excessively individualistic and was ignoring the social obligations that we all have to disadvantaged members of the community.

So I have no difficulty with a new tolerant Tory party. But tolerance and compassion are not a substitute for policy: they do not remove the need for political parties to have a clear position on important social issues and for that policy to be based on enduring principles. For the Conservatives, the family has always been fundamental. A family of father, mother and children must always be the most appropriate basis for society. It provides the best prospect for the love, stability and security that is essential for children's upbringing. These qualities are sometimes present where the parents are unmarried, or where there is only a single parent, but the risks are much greater and the prospect of success is diminished.

A commitment to the traditional family does not imply intolerance towards those who reject such values. Parliament cannot legislate to require people to marry, or to be heterosexual. But tolerance

should not be confused with support for the strident campaign for gays, lesbians and other pressure groups to remove every legal and other distinction between heterosexual and homosexual relationships and between the married and the unmarried.

There are real questions of public policy which can be decided only by Parliament and on which the Tory party needs to have a principled position. For example, should lesbian and gay partners be allowed to adopt children? Should a lesbian or gay partner have the same pension rights as a spouse? Should the law be changed to provide for a marriage ceremony between gays or lesbians? Should the Armed Forces, if they allow homosexual soldiers, be obliged to provide married quarters for gay or lesbian partners? I firmly believe that the party should side with those who oppose such proposals. In a courteous but firm way, we should take a stand based on principle.

Comparable questions arise with heterosexual relationships when the partners are unmarried. For example, if tax allowances, pensions or immigration rights are made available only to married partners, avoidance of fraud is straightforward because a marriage certificate is available to prove status. But it is often difficult to establish the distinction between a long-term stable relationship of unmarried partners and a casual union set up for fraudulent purposes.

These considerations are not incidental or accidental. Marriage has been a feature of every civilised society and is the basis by which social relationships have been recognised and respected. Ignore marriage and it is not just morality that suffers. Social cohesion is shattered.

These are legitimate matters of public policy and the Tory party must not be embarrassed to proclaim them. They represent the values of millions of men and women throughout Britain. They are matters on which Parliament has to take a view. By all means let us be tolerant and compassionate. Each person must be able to decide their own lifestyle — but there is such a thing as society. If extreme individualism is inadequate in these post-Thatcher years, then that implies responsibilities as well as rights. It also implies that society is entitled to declare those values which it wishes to encourage, and to give preference to marriage and to heterosexuality as the most suitable basis for social stability and the upbringing of future generations.

The Tory party has always prospered because it has remained constant to certain principles and values. The traditional family is one of the most important and William Hague is right to give it his resounding personal commitment. The family needs our support more than ever — not only by word, but also by deed.

Sir Malcolm Rifkind was Defence Secretary 1992-95, and Foreign Secretary 1995-97.



"I'M ONLY BEING INCLUSIVE..."

## When the great wind blew

Ten years ago we coped heroically with natural disaster — today we would probably summon the stress counsellors

Ten years ago this week the great wind blew. At 110 miles an hour, it swept across the Southern Counties, humbling our smugness and flattening our certainties. Some thought the South made too much fuss: such near-hurricanes are not unknown in the far north of these islands, where stone houses crouch low and solid in a rocky, treeless landscape.

But this wind tore through the cosy, affluent heartland of the Home Counties: John Benjamin country, where telephone wires sag comfortably between the branches along leafy lanes, and immemorial oaks tower over painted roofs. It blew through towns cluttered with wonky billboards and decrepit chimneys with cars parked under them without a second thought. It became a billion-pound liability, and it shocked us rigid.

The expression "act of God" suddenly, in the full flight of a Godless materialistic decade, took on real and awful meaning. Solid practical un-sentimental people wept for trees. Down the road from us, the story went that an elderly aristocratic widow died of shock when she looked out at her parkland on that wild morning. Others sold their houses within the year, unable any longer to love them without their trees. One couple divorced; probably they would have anyway, but there was in those eerily sunny weeks after the hurricane a dangerously unsettling sense that nothing could ever be the same again. Our four-year-old wept for the beech tree in the garden, because we had told him it was 150 years old. Its fall made him abruptly and cruelly aware of the concept of centuries.

Unaided, he saw with horror that he and everybody he knew would be dead before it grew again. Our own shock was that the tree had crushed a brick shed to powder only 10ft from the children's beds under the eaves. We spent nine days without power and 11 days without telephone (the newly privatised Telecom dazed us by fixing it on the first day, but then a damaged poplar tree crashed through the wire, despite eight neighbours hanging on a rope and trying to pull it into the onion bed instead). In the early, incredulous moments of that morning, dodging flying plants and staring at the hissing, sparking power cables which writhed among the dry leaves, the veneer of civilisation had never seemed so thin.

But then not had human beings

ever seemed so indomitable. At mid-morning, while the local radio station was still excitedly warning citizens to stay at home in a hard hat and put sandbags round the elderly, our 78-year-old neighbour was spotted on a ladder, hammering tiles back onto his cottage roof, standing no nonsense.

Altogether, looking back a decade on at diaries and notes where private and national memories tangle together, it is irresistible to ask what the big wind taught us. The England that the hurricane hit worst was in a curious condition. Three months earlier, Margaret Thatcher had won an historic third term in office. The word "triumphalism" did not begin to cover the mood of her party. Privatisation continued apace, the unions had slumped into a defeated depression, and property prices in the South were soaring beyond reason, driven by a sense of financial invincibility. We, living in an average pleasant Suffolk farmhouse, had estate agents' leaflets through the box every week pleading on behalf of "cash clients" (18 months later, on the far side of Nigel Lawson, it took us two years to sell it at a third less than their 1987 valuation). The word " yuppie" was newly coined, and millions watched *Howards Way*, in which feisty entrepreneurs in designer clothing were forever setting up businesses and watching them go public and multinational within three episodes.

When the wind blew, there was a sense of outrage. Much energy was wasted on blaming the Met Office, although it did clearly forecast strong gales. The outrage was tempered by a certain pride: the concept of citizens as "clients" protected by "charters" had not yet been invented, and the idea of the dignity of manual work had been thoroughly kicked about by Mrs Thatcher's regime. But when the chips were down, the dedication and energy of workmen of all kinds and

emergency services took us back to an earlier, almost wartime spirit. The London Fire Brigade answered 6,000 emergency calls in 24 hours, rail gangs moved at remarkable speed to restore all the lines cut by the gale (there were no railways running south of Peterborough). Builders knocked themselves out making houses safe, and operated a "greatest need first" policy, annoying wealthier householders by doing the small cottages first on the ground that they had fewer usable rooms. The electricity boards called in help from as far afield as Co Cork. On our ninth day of living by the light of hurricane lamps and combining the county for ever scarcer paraffin supplies, a lost tribe of electricians from Wales turned up, unshaven and exhausted in a filthy van, and restored the light by spending 20 minutes up a pylon singing *Bread of Heaven*.

Teleworkers, newly invented, suddenly realised the limitations of their new lives. Many of us, incredibly, were just into our first word processors, from that Eighties whizz-kid Alan Michael Sugar, of Amstrad. So electrically dependent had I become in two short years that in order to continue working I had to raid the Christmas present store and adopt a Junior Elite toy typewriter. It was hell. Nor did many people yet have mobile phones: for a fortnight I conducted my professional life by bicycling to the nearest town.

Whether it was the modern or the microwave you missed, there was a general sense that control and convenience were snatched from us just as they had reached a new peak. It was an age of control, indeed, and where the 15 million lost trees were concerned many snatched it back too roughly. Park keepers, foresters and volunteers busily cleared up; today, many regret it. Woodlands where the bulldozers came in and trees were replanted have done less well: the

machines compacted the earth, and the planted trees grew slowly. Where the old roots and shattered branches were left to lie chaotically on the ground, nature vigorously restored herself. The old trunks grew fungi, lichens and mosses, feeding insects and small birds. New trees rapidly established themselves in the tree, loosened aerated soil. In the boating lake at Thorpeness, in Suffolk, there is a tiny island, no more than a rootball, which I have loved since childhood. That night it blew right over. They took the trunk away and left a hideous lump. Today that lump is a new and lovelier island, with its own triumphant tree.

Conservationists now praise the hurricane. Industrial forestry suffered, but so do all industries from time to time. Insurers lost hundreds of millions, aggravating the collapses of Lloyd's, on the other hand the behaviour of major insurance companies was so rapid and graceful even at their moment of severest loss that I suspect it brought new trade. Several people have said to me since that they now pay premiums with better grace because of the response in that awful first week of leaking roofs and shattered cars.

Memories crowd in: the surreal sight of big boats thrown hundreds of yards from the river onto the marsh; the procession of neighbours with towels who discovered that we still had an archaic solid fuel boiler; the extraordinary, fertile trade in knocked-off tiles which met the sudden scarcity. One vet in Norfolk neutered cats for ten pence a time. I remember, too, the gap of understanding between city and country. While 250,000 homes were still without power, the London media was leading on stock exchange hysterics, the defection of Pfi from the Commonwealth, and Nancy Reagan's breasts (no, I can't remember either). Newspapers said "Britain is getting back to normal" while farmers still searched for livestock which had panicked and run for miles.

It is tempting to say that the great gale taught us lessons, but there is not much evidence. If it happened today the main difference would be that builders would be far scarcer because apprenticeship has collapsed so much; and that some damn fool would have turned up on day two, not with paraffin or panicles, but with an offer of post-traumatic counselling.

## Libby Purves

## Battering of the innocents

William Sieghart on his family's Roman nightmare

Like many football-lovers who have been following England's progress through their World Cup qualifying group, the thought of a weekend in Rome to watch the *dénoûment* seemed too enticing to resist. Rome has more than enough attractions for the cultural tourist, but a visit to the spectacular Olympic Stadium as well seemed the perfect weekend proposition. Tickets were easy to come by through a London agency, so on Saturday with my wife, and a merchant banking friend and his eight-year-old son we headed to Rome full of anticipation. Little were we to know what was waiting for us.

Our scheduled flight was met by an armoured personnel carrier and line upon line of heavily armed police. Many English fans were escorted there and then and transported directly to the ground. As we threaded our way into town past Rome's monuments, ranks of riot police were stationed on every corner. Having settled in to our Roman hotel we headed for the tram station for our 20-minute ride to the stadium. We were met by baton-wielding plainclothes police who unceremoniously bundled us on to our tram. Already supporters began telling us of terrifying experiences they had suffered in the middle of Rome that day. Wherever groups of supporters had met before the game it seemed they were harassed and beaten by teams of helmeted carabinieri.

At the stadium we met the majority of English supporters who had been waiting — some two hours — for access to the ground and had been put through three body-searches. We waited as the precious pre-match minutes ticked away. Meanwhile, 75,000 or so Italian fans entered the stadium unsearched and found their seats.

With less than five minutes to go before kick-off thousands of us were still being denied entry and being forced through a further body-search by a group of a dozen policemen who removed coins, matches and belts from us all. One of the English supporters resisted when he saw confiscated belongings being strewn outside the stadium, claiming that his belt was a £150 Armani luxury item that he didn't want damaged. A policeman then pushed two gloved fingers into his eyes, while another hit him over the head with his wooden truncheon. He was led away, blood streaming from a split scalp. Not surprisingly, this enraged the waiting supporters, who were also worried that they would be missing precious moments of the match they had travelled so many miles to see. They surged forward, only to be met by vicious blows from batons. Not for the last time that evening, we wondered whether we were in the right place.

Eventually we were all allowed to go to our seats some time after the first half had begun. Almost immediately a hail of bottles, coins and sears from the Italian supporters' stand next to us started to land on us. The Italian police, with their backs to their supporters, simply stood there and smiled. At this point the only blot on British behaviour appeared, as a few supporters began throwing them back. Immediately a line of Italian police launched into a terrifyingly ferocious and indiscriminate assault on us. My friend scooped up his child and, helped by other fans, we moved as far away as we could to escape the rain of batons. A 70-year-old man received three blows to the head. A blow aimed at a seven-year-old boy miraculously missed him by millimetres.

It was the kind of approach to crowd control that I had witnessed on the streets of Jakarta. Not what I would have expected of a democratic European partner. When the match was over we were not allowed to leave our stand. Over two hours later the first of us were at last let out to walk the many miles back to our hotel — but not without further police charges as we left the stadium itself. Some unlucky fans were held until after 3am and were again assaulted, when they begged to be allowed to leave. Many had not eaten or been allowed to visit the lavatory for more than nine hours.

As we left Rome last night, the airport was filled with battered fans sharing horror stories. Neither the beauty of Rome nor the resulting qualification of our team held any consolation. For me, this was an experience unmatched in years of travelling to some of the most dangerous countries in the world.

While I am aware that the past record of English football supporters abroad has not been anything to be proud of, this treatment of our citizens by a fellow European partner should provoke outrage. None of the policemen seemed to have any numbered identification, nor was there any way for those innocent people who suffered injury to voice their complaints.

We know that there is a hard core of English supporters whose sole purpose is to cause trouble abroad. But why should the vast majority of well-intentioned men, women and children who like to follow our team abroad have to be abused so horribly like this? Do football supporters not have human rights too?

JASPER GERARD

## Cook's tour

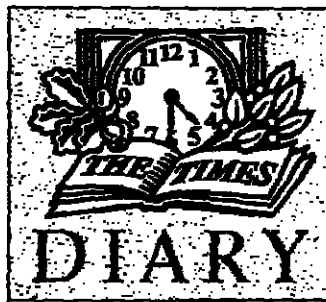
SECURITY fears are mounting over the domestic arrangements of the Foreign Secretary. After the separation from his wife earlier this year, Robin Cook has been observed house-hunting with his aide and companion, Gaynor Regan, in Edinburgh's bohemian New Town. But his search has not proved fruitful. It is understood that he has just been gazzumped on a flat in Great King Street, which went for £160,000, having been on the market for just £125,000.

In the meantime, when he ventures north he has had to stay

in the 17th-century converted mill (so new Labour) he shared with his now estranged wife, Margaret, in the district of Clermiston. Now the security services are growing concerned. Jim Divine, Cook's constituency agent during the general election, tells me: "He still has not found a place. There is real concern about security. We have had discussions with Special Branch. 'He has been doing what he has always done when he comes up for constituency business.' This, however, is not something that he can do for ever."

### Hogg tied

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone is refusing to read a forthcoming biography charting his rise to the foothills of political greatness. The good lord, who turned 90 last week, is not pleased about the new study by Geoffrey Lewis. One can see why. A description of his days at Eton characterises



him as a "loud, obstreperous and aggressive" pupil. "A picture of a thoroughly nasty schoolboy emerges: small, assertive, bumptious," says Mr Lewis. "He was a perfectly beastly boy."

But Hailsham, whom I caught at his fourth birthday party of the week at Westminster, has seen enough trouble not to take offence. "I think it is very important not to read books about oneself," he says tactfully. "They can only bring embarrassment." Indeed.

IN a politically correct age, the policemen in Downing Street retain traditional attitudes. A lawyer friend of the Prime Minister's wife called round the other day saying he had "come to visit Cherie Booth". Blank looks from the attending bobbies. The lawyer, a right-on sort, refused to say that he wanted to visit "Mrs Blair". He

was sent away and returned to his chambers, from where he received a telephone call from Ms Booth — who apologised for the policeman.

### Banks offside

HE might be a bit coarse, I grant you, but I reckon Tony Banks would be a rather amusing dinner companion. Unfortunately Rachel Heyhoe Flint, once a muscular hitter with the England women's cricket team, thinks otherwise.

The much-quoted minister was due to attend a Night of Sporting Legends dinner in Birmingham, but Ms Heyhoe Flint and other "celebrity" guests wrote saying that they would withdraw from the dinner if Banks attended.

"What put the lid on it was his remark about Zola and how he would be cheering for him if he scored for Italy," says a buffer organising the dinner. "We also didn't know if he would be Sports Minister by the time of the dinner at his present progress."

DISASTER has yet to dampen spirits on the erupting island of Montserrat. Its Government is advertising here for an economic adviser. The successful candidate will be a "seasoned economist", who will be able to provide "strategic input into public finance within a

small island economy". And the reward for salvaging the island's financial situation? Free accommodation and passages.

### In the frame

THAT sacred hobby of the ruling classes — dabbling with watercolours — still impresses art dealers in Mayfair, where four generations of the Northbourne family — big brushes in Kent — are preparing to tout their amusingly personal paintings.

The exhibition, at Thompson's Gallery in Dover Street, will include work by an earlier baron, Walter James — who at least had the distinction of studying at art school — as well as offerings from the thinnish portfolio of 31-year-old Sebastian James, who has had some success in the City.

The show will be opened by the delightful John Ward, who has resigned from the Royal Academy after a row with the president. "I got to know the 5th Baron after the war," he says. "He was a very keen painter. I'm so glad he's showing at Thompson's — being hung at the Royal Academy is a very dubious privilege these days."

MATTHEW Bannister, the BBC's Controller of Radio, has not always raved about "bubbly" Zoe



Zoe Ball: kids' stuff

Ball, new presenter of Radio One's Breakfast Show. I gather that after "anarchic" (read: dim) Chris Evans flounced out of Broadcasting House, Bannister was withering about Ball. "We can't have her on the Breakfast Show — she is a bloody kids' TV presenter," he declared, before choosing Mark Radcliffe and his sidekick "Lard". After that failure, he has placed his deputy, Andy Parfitt, in direct charge of the programme — not, I trust, to absorb the resulting flak.



"Yes it's a donkey jacket — but it's an Armani"





## ROME AND PARIS

Lessons that must be acted on before next year's World Cup

The Italian policing of Saturday's World Cup qualifying match in Rome was a model of how not to proceed. The indiscriminate baton charges in the stadium injured English supporters who played no part in the violence; worse casualties would have resulted had there been a stampede by panicking spectators. Italy has much to learn about British police techniques of isolating troublemakers and taking them out of the stands at the first sign of trouble. If containment failed, so did proven methods of prevention. Gate checks were offensively intrusive in searching bodies but culpably lax in checking tickets and seat assignments. Groups of English fans were not properly isolated, and some were admitted who should not have been.

Yet it has to be recognised that although England has improved its grim record for football hooliganism, it has not yet beaten the problem. Last year in this country, 3,577 were arrested at or near football grounds. And too many English fans still behave abroad far worse than they do at home. The Football Association's ticket schemes have not stopped fans travelling without tickets on the assumption — often correct — that they will be allowed into stadiums for fear of riots if they are excluded. However inexcusable the police brutality in Rome, the background to it is the jumpiness that still attends the arrival of English supporters. Tension was raised before the game by drunken, aggressive English supporters who vandalised Roman cafés, cars and shops, littered parts of the city with broken glass and forced shopkeepers to ring down their shutters. It does not take many to generate a climate of fear.

Neither country emerges blameless from this encounter. The 1989 Football Spectators Act provides for restriction orders against those who have committed an offence, yet only nine currently have orders against them. If 700 known troublemakers were free

to travel, this system is not working. A fixture in Italy should have been tackled with extra rigour because the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster, when 39 Juventus supporters were crushed to death after a charge by Liverpool fans, remains vivid in Italian memory. Rioting by English fans in Sweden, Rotterdam and Dublin this decade underlines the sombre fact that the modernisation of the England team has yet to be matched by the civilising of some English supporters. At home, all-seat stadiums, video camera controls and other techniques honed by the British police have contained the problem but are also testimony to its scale — and even these did not prevent last year's disgraceful scenes after the Euro '96 semi-final between England and Germany at Wembley.

The question that must swiftly be addressed is how to prevent any repetition in next year's World Cup in France, when far more English supporters will cross the Channel. France, unlike Italy, has yet to enter into the reciprocal notifying agreements with Scotland Yard's football unit that enable the identification of troublemakers. After Rome, that is clearly a priority. If this country's restriction orders cannot be made to work, it is worth reconsidering the identity card scheme that was canvassed in 1989 but shelved after the Hillsborough report.

Bad behaviour by English fans has already made football a sport policed like no other. To go further and ban sales of alcohol in towns and cities before and after matches would be unpopular, but would it be more unacceptable than what happened in Rome? This was what Italy did, at the British Government's urging, for the 1990 World Cup, and it considerably reduced off-pitch violence. It is a drastic remedy and is no substitute for close Franco-British police co-operation between now and next year; but after Rome, it is one that should be on the joint planning agenda.

## GESTURE POLITICS

The hand-shaken yesterday may prime the bomb tomorrow

Eighteen months after the last occasion on which a British Prime Minister met the leader of Irish republicanism, David Lloyd George's career was at an end and so was Michael Collins's life. Tony Blair's embrace of Gerry Adams yesterday is unlikely to lead to such dramatic consequences for either but it should not be seen as a concession without costs. Although their meeting took place away from the cameras, and may have been accompanied by an insistence on the Government's part that Sinn Féin is being treated like every other party, it is nevertheless another propaganda coup for a republican movement which itself remains unwilling to compromise on symbols or substance.

Sinn Féin is in talks not to reach amicable agreement but, in the words of its chief "negotiator" Martin McGuinness, to "smash the Union". Should negotiations fall short of the republicans' aim then the IRA, which has never accepted the Mitchell Principles of non-violence, remains ready to return to the armed struggle. Mr Blair may then regret shaking a hand not just stained with blood but hovering over the detonator.

The refusal by Mr Major to dignify Mr Adams with a handshake has been cited by republican apologists as a symbolic snub which helped to convince the IRA that the last Government was not serious about talks and needed to be reminded of the costs of continued violence. Anxious to ensure that this ceasefire does not collapse, the Prime Minister's defenders believe that if a handshake helps to bind republicans into talks then it would be wrong to refuse. Couched in such terms it seems perverse to object. To

appreciate the real dangers of the gesture, however, it is only necessary to ask, what sort of ceasefire it is that needs a handshake to cement it? Mr Adams must delight in the ease with which he can persuade the Prime Minister to indulge his wishes, great or small, and in so doing offend Northern Ireland's democratic majority.

Mr Blair may believe that no progress will ever be made in Northern Ireland if he becomes a prisoner of principle. But even on the most calculating and pragmatic grounds his current course is a dangerous one. At every stage in the peace process concessions have been justified on the ground that they are necessary to make the political process attractive to the republicans. But there has been a poor return for the investment of Danegeld. A handshake from Bill Clinton in December 1995 did not prevent a return to violence in February 1996. None of this Government's generosity towards republicans since the ceasefire has been accompanied by any handsome gesture from Sinn Féin. Mr Blair's recent announcement that interment would be struck from the statute book was pocketed by the republicans without any matching response.

Indulgence of republican demands is not without cost. It weakens support within the majority community for the Unionist leader David Trimble's participation in talks and limits his room for generosity in negotiations. Those whose confidence in the peace process most needs bolstering are not terrorist organisations, whose prisoners are being transferred and leaders fêted, but democratic parties whose patience has been tested so far.

## COOKING UP A STORM

The Foreign Secretary has spoken out of turn

The Queen's visit to India was always going to be controversial. Despite close cultural and historical links, there is a sizeable section of the Indian population which still harbours intense suspicion of the former imperial power: this emotion is all too easily manipulated by politicians looking for quick popularity. On this, the 50th year of independence, India has been looking back to the days of the Raj, not always nostalgically. Britain is central to such memories of dark days and a difficult heritage, and the Queen's brave decision to face up to one of the darkest stains, the 1919 Amritsar massacre, was bound to inflame sensitivities. What no one anticipated, however, was that the Queen's visit would be overshadowed not by historical legacies but by a gaffe by the British Foreign Secretary.

Robin Cook has spent much of the past two days denying that he ever made the remarks that now appear to have caused such a storm. British officials have protectively insisted that he said nothing in public, but he brought no new suggestions on Kashmir with him and that he discussed the disputed territory only as part of a general review of Anglo-Pakistani relations. The review of Anglo-Pakistani relations, the "Pakistanis, however, give a different version. They say that Mr Cook specifically offered, in talks with Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and Ghauharuay Khan, the Foreign Minister, to help to find a "just solution" — a phrase that smacks to India of the internationalisation of the dispute, which Delhi regards as unacceptable.

By tradition, the Foreign Secretary accompanies the Queen on state visits only as her adviser; he brings no foreign policy initiatives and causes no waves. Mr Cook argues that it would have been impossible for him not to have paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister, and equally impossible not to have discussed Kashmir. He insists that he was important Pakistani points over Afghanistan, and subsequently established a valuable rapport with Inder Kumar Gujral, the Indian Prime Minister. That alone is proof that he saw this as a working visit. This was a departure from protocol and a serious misjudgment.

So violent and partisan are feelings over Kashmir that almost anything he said would be taken amiss by one side or the other. It would, perhaps, have been better had the state visits been in the other order; but given the distorting megaphone of the sub-continent's press, Mr Cook could hardly have imagined that he would not become a focus for antagonism, especially at a time when India and Pakistan are gingerly taking the first steps towards direct negotiations over Kashmir. Labour's policy is deeply suspect in Delhi, with politicians quick to seize on party policy documents which they say are intended to woo Muslim voters in Britain. It may seem odd to visit the sub-continent without discussing Kashmir; but Mr Cook has plenty of other chances to put forward his views. His courtesy calls should have remained just that: anything more is a discourtesy to the Queen.

## Burke as model to 'tolerant' Tories

From Mr Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader "Tolerance and Tolerance" (October 10), is surely right to welcome a greater study of Burke by leading Conservatives but quite wrong to suggest that Burke might have approved any further weakening of the State's diminished support for marriage. He described marriage as "the contract which renews the world" and likened the family to the "little platoon", a structured and disciplined organisation.

There is a crucial distinction between condemning those who find themselves in unhappy circumstances (whether through their own fault or through personal tragedy) and recognising the grim economic arithmetic over four fifths of all child-bearing "stable" relationships outside marriage dissolve before the children become adults and two thirds of all single-parent families are wholly or mainly dependent on the State.

As Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Michael Portillo struggled manfully against a mounting budget deficit. He should be the first to recognise that burgeoning social security spending, much of it driven by family breakdown, was and is the major factor in public spending growth. Almost a third of children of pre-school age are now being reared on income support.

The State cannot prescribe how people should live their lives but sensible measures in our tax, benefit and civil laws, designed to encourage lasting marriages, and to recognise responsibilities within them, are in the economic interests of the taxpayer as well as the best interests of the children.

In commenting on the French Revolution and the contemporary reaction, Burke remarked:

When I saw this mingled scene of crime, of vice, of disorder... received by very many here... with rapture and exultation... I thought myself bound to stand... I distinguish the ideas of a sober and virtuous liberty... from that profligate, immoral, impious and rebellious license.

As representatives of the British Government sit down with Gerry Adams while the IRA have still not renounced violence, as Britain prepares to confer her citizenship on foreign homosexual partners (report, October 11) and state-funded illegitimacy becomes the norm in large parts of the country, we could do with a strong draught of Burke's common sense.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN BRAZIER,  
House of Commons,  
October 10.

From Canon W. D. Jones

Sir, Everyone concerned with the health of democracy in this nation will hope that the Conservative Party will succeed in its plans to reform and reorganise, and in its goal of party unity. This is necessary if the party is to prove an effective Opposition and a credible candidate for government.

But the question that still persists is why, at the conference of a major political party in this country towards the end of the 20th century, was it found necessary, day after day, for speaker after speaker to urge upon the party leaders, MPs and party activists, the need for greater compassion and kindness, more caring and tolerance, more sensitive listening and humility?

What lessons are we to draw from this?

Yours faithfully,  
W. D. JONES,  
Hatfield Cottage,  
Bath Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.  
w.d.jones@btinternet.com  
October 10.

## Major and Goldsmith

From Mr Howell James

Sir, I hate to spoil a good tale — particularly one given such prominence in *The Times* (book extract, October 7) but I am afraid I do not recognise Alistair McAlpine's version of discussions between John Major and Sir James Goldsmith in the autumn of 1995.

The meeting in question was a dinner at which I was present, as I was during the later telephone call to which Lord McAlpine refers. On neither of those occasions did Mr Major offer the possibility of a full referendum on Europe. Such a proposition would have been undeliverable politically, even if Mr Major was minded to consider it, which he wasn't.

Yours faithfully,  
HOWELL JAMES  
(Political Secretary to the Prime Minister, 1994-1997),  
25 Lower Belgrave Street, SW1,  
October 8.

## Author's brainstorms

From Mr Hamish Carmichael

Sir, My favourite erratum slip (letters, September 10 and 17; October 3 and 9) comes from the delightful *Confessions of an Uncommon Attorney*, 1945, by the late Reginald L. Hine, of Hitchin. It reads:

Page 29, delete "unlocked by the all-knowing bishop", and substitute "suspended, at his own request".

Yours faithfully,  
J. W. S. CARMICHAEL,  
63 Collingwood Avenue,  
Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey,  
October 9.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Penzington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Who were Rome's true barbarians?

From Mr Anthony Mellor

Sir, Along with a few thousand other England fans, I arrived at the Olympic Stadium in Rome at about 6.15pm on Saturday and was subjected to a rigorous search, with everything from belts to keys to coins to lighters being confiscated.

Inside was chaos. We had tickets for the "official" section but were sent to an area for which these were not valid, so the police (there were no stewards) told us to sit wherever we wished. We had been told beforehand that we were forbidden to bring any politically inflammatory banners into the ground (why would we?). However, the Italians on our right waved Irish flags and banners proclaiming slogans such as "Free Northern Ireland", as well as flags with skull and crossbones on them.

Forty seconds after kick-off the Italians started to throw full water bottles, coins and other objects into our stand. The English could not have thrown anything back — everything had been confiscated. The Italian police did not react to the missiles being lobbed into our area, yet when the English started to return the rubbish thrown at them, the police started a "baton charge"; they repeated this continuously until the end of the first half.

The second half passed peacefully, but after the game we were not released for an hour and a half. When I finally we were allowed out, we were "baton-charged" by the police without reason three times. A stampede ensued, with English fans running for cover. Numerous women and children were crying; one child I noticed was bleeding, apparently due to having been struck round the face by one of the police. We finally made it safely to our coaches by about 1.30am.

The behaviour of both the Italian fans and the police was disgraceful.

## Drug legalisation

From Dr Robert Lefever

Sir, The Lord Chief Justice has called for a debate on the legalisation of cannabis (report, October 9). Surely what should be examined are the inconsistencies in the legal position concerning the use of any mood-altering substance, such as alcohol, nicotine and those drugs which are currently illegal.

There should be two guiding principles: first, that social use should be permitted for any mood-altering substance, but the law should protect other people from risk or damage consequent upon that use.

This is the situation that already exists for alcohol use and I believe this

principle should be broadly applied. Second, that the Mental Health Act should be applied for those whose perception is impaired and thus become a danger to themselves and possibly to others.

This situation already exists for schizophrenia and other psychoses, but is not yet applicable for anorexia, alcoholism and drug addiction — including nicotine addiction, the biggest killer of all — as I believe it should be. Although this appears to be an infringement of liberty, there is in fact no liberty in compulsive behaviour.

Yours etc,  
ROBERT LEFEVER,  
The Promis Unit,  
2a Pelham Street, SW7,  
October 9.

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## French supremacy begs questioning

From Professor Thomas Wiedemann

Sir, Mr Richard Branson (letter, October 8) reminds us of how the primacy of French teaching restricts the opportunities for British secondary-school students to learn Spanish and other languages.

The effective monopoly position of French as the first foreign language in our schools is the result of a particular historical event, the First World War (German disappeared from the syllabus from one term to the next in the autumn of 1914).

The introduction of the national curriculum has increasingly prevented schools from giving their pupils the choice of learning so-called "minority" languages such as German, Russian, Greek or Latin are rather more suitable in enabling those whose first language is English to develop linguistic ability (as well as improving their computer programming skills).

Nor is the position of French necessarily of help to French teachers, faced with pupils who, for good reasons as well as bad ones, frequently resent having to learn a language they have not chosen.

The problem has been recognised for at least a decade, but the decline of "minority" languages has continued. Mr Blunkett should ensure that the Government's promised introduction of computer-aided learning to every school will be an opportunity for local education authorities to support the provision of a much wider choice of languages in our schools, from Arabic and Mandarin to Greek and Latin.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS WIEDEMANN,  
University of Nottingham,  
Department of Latin,  
University Park, Nottingham,  
October 8.

From Mr Roderick Thomson

Sir, France is nearer. It has a greater literature than Spain's. Millions of Africans speak French, as do thousands of Asians in former colonies; millions in Europe have it as a second language.

Mr Branson's daughter is certain to find it of great help in her travels and reading. Its hold in British schools is fully justified.

Yours sincerely,  
RODERICK THOMSON,  
Army and Navy Club,  
Pall Mall, SW1,  
October 8.

From the President of the

Alliance Française de Londres

Sir, Mr Branson attributes the predominance of French in our schools to "historic reasons". He is right.

It might, however, perhaps be added, that but for "historic reasons" neither he nor I might be alive today.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER FAWCETT, President,  
Alliance Française de Londres,  
1 Dorset Square, NW1,  
October 9.

From Mrs Gay Bramwich

Sir, Richard Branson is right. French is a very difficult language for native English speakers. Most of us struggle to learn enough to pass exams, and we then think we are not very good at languages and don't bother to try any others.

If we learnt Italian or Spanish as a first foreign language, we would be more successful, and would then have the confidence to tackle others, including French.

Yours,  
G. BRAMWICH,  
Poultons Hatch,  
Mill Road, Aldington, Kent,  
October 8.

From Mr Thomas Watts

Sir, Surely the linguistic energies of today's youth could be better directed towards learning English properly.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS WATTS







## OBITUARIES

## JOHN DENVER

John Denver, singer-songwriter, died on October 12 aged 53. He was born on December 31, 1943.

John Denver wrote some of the best-loved country-tinged pop songs of the past 30 years, and went on to become an all-round American family entertainer. Yet even while making Christmas records with the Muppets, duetting with Frank Sinatra or playing for President Bush in the White House, he used his popular success to promote his passionate concern for the environment, born of a deep love for the scenery and wildlife of the "rocky mountain high" of Aspen, Colorado where he lived for the past quarter of a century.

The son of an American Air Force colonel, he was born Henry John Deutchendorf and raised on bases across America as well as in Japan when his father was posted overseas. He studied architecture at Texas Tech in Lubbock, but having developed an early love for folk music after his grandmother had given him a vintage Gibson guitar when he was 12, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue a musical career.

Taking his stage name from his favourite American city, he reached his early break in 1965 when he beat 250 other hopefuls in an audition to join the folk combo the Chad Mitchell Trio. He stayed with them until he signed a recording deal as a solo artist in 1968.

He had almost immediate success as a songwriter when Peter, Paul and Mary covered *Leaving on a Jet Plane* from his debut solo album and turned it into a million-seller. His first American hit under his own name swiftly followed with *Take Me Home, Country Roads*, although in Britain the song was covered by Olivia Newton-John. Further successes followed in his sweet — some said saccharine — tenor, on songs that wavered between sincerity and sentimentality.

Moving to Aspen in the Colorado mountains with his first wife in 1972, he had his first British chart success with the album inspired by his new location, *Rocky Mountain High*. His popularity was boosted by a weekly live BBC2 series, *The John Denver Show*, where his clean-cut Milky Bar Kid look won him a wide audience but made him something of a figure of fun among the progressive rock fans of the time.

A Greatest Hits album in early 1974 seemed somewhat premature after just two Top Ten singles, but the record-buying public on both sides of the Atlantic thought otherwise. It sold five million copies and stayed in the album charts for more than three years. Later that year he scored his only British number one single with *Annie's Song*, a poignant ode to his wife written in ten minutes while riding on a ski-lift after a temporary rift in their marriage.

His middle-of-the-road leanings were always apparent and appeared to



get the upper hand with the 1975 seasonal album, *Rocky Mountain Christmas*. A week at the London Palladium the following year resulted in a successful live album; he also appeared on television with Frank Sinatra and made his 1977 film debut with George Burns in the forgettable comedy *Oh God*.

As he moved further away from his folk roots he appealed more to family audiences. Thus, in 1979, he recorded the million-selling album *A Christmas Together*, with the television puppet characters the Muppets, a move which finished him in the eyes of many serious music fans who had until then appreciated his craft as a songwriter. A second Christmas show with the Muppets and Julie Andrews was to follow in 1987 and his seasonal rele-

vision specials broadcast from different States of the Union were to become part of the annual festivities in America. There was also a television special *In Performance at the White House* recorded before President Bush in 1989.

His critics accused him of blandness but Denver continued to expand his musical palette through the 1980s, recording the duet *Perhaps Love* with Plácido Domingo, dabbling in reggae with members of Bob Marley's old band The Wailers on *It's About Time* and touring the still Communist Soviet Union in 1985, where he recorded with the top Soviet singer Aleksandr Gradsky. The latter collaboration led to Denver being dropped by his record company RCA after General Electric, which owned the label and was heavily involved in military contracts, objected

to the pro-disarmament song he and Gradsky recorded together, *Let Us Begin (What Are We Making Weapons For?)*.

Denver set up his own label, Windstar, the name he also gave to the foundation which he established to pursue his ecological interests. These concerns were by now becoming more important than his musical career, which was running out of steam. He carried on touring and played a series of concerts in Britain earlier this year, but after 1987 he released just two new studio albums as the list of environmental causes he supported grew. The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth and the World Wildlife Fund all received his patronage, and Unicef benefited from the donation of song royalties.

He staged an exhibition of photographs of Rocky Mountain landscapes and wildlife at a Manhattan gallery, and, branching into film-making, he won a quiver of awards for *Rocky Mountain Reunion*, a documentary about endangered species. He also made *John Denver's Alaska: The America Child*.

While General Electric may have objected to his political stance, the White House seemed less concerned, for in 1987 President Reagan presented Denver with the Presidential World Without Hunger Award, partly in recognition of the fact-finding trip he had made to Africa on behalf of the Hunger Project, a charitable trust dedicated to eradicating world poverty. In 1992 he turned up at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to give a press conference with the Dalai Lama.

Denver also developed an interest in space exploration, becoming a member of the National Space Institute and the European Space Agency and, somewhat bizarrely, in 1988 suggested to Moscow that they should send him to the Mir space station. The Soviet authorities reportedly put a prohibitive ten million dollar ticket on the trip.

In recent years Denver's personal life was far from happy. He had divorced Annie, his first wife, and married the Australian singer and actress Cassandra Delaney, but in 1991 he filed for divorce again, asking for a temporary restraining order to bar her from his Aspen home. She levelled lurid allegations of abuse and bullying against him.

In 1993 he was charged with drunk driving and had to perform 25 hours of public service. A year later he crashed his Porsche convertible in Aspen and was charged again with driving while under the influence.

An experienced pilot, Denver died when his single-engine plane crashed into Monterey Bay near San Francisco. He had bought a home in the area to be near his daughter Jesse and regularly flew out of the local airport.

He is survived by his two former wives and his daughter.

## JONATHAN SILVER



Jonathan Silver with a work by his friend David Hockney

Jonathan Silver, patron of the arts, died of cancer on September 24, aged 47. He was born on October 21, 1949.

JONATHAN SILVER was an astute and unconventional entrepreneur whose last venture, Salt's Mill in Saltaire, Yorkshire, fused art and commerce together in a burgeoning business environment and revived the town.

Silver showed business acumen from an early age, selling stationery to schoolfriends and in the 1970s establishing a chain of shops selling cheap, fashionable clothes to Mancunians. Describing himself as a "creative, romantic capitalist", he was also impulsive, at one point dropping everything to report on the atrocities of Pol Pot's regime in Cambodia, and later taking his wife and two children around the world for three years.

A man who challenged traditional conventions, he was a great media showman, who did not mind getting his hands dirty to ensure that deadlines were met. His early death has robbed the arts of an ardent champion, and deprived commerce of the man who led the economic recovery of the Bradford satellite town of Saltaire.

Jonathan Silver's first home, with his parents, was a Bradford boarding house for Jewish refugees, run by his grandmother. He attended Bradford Grammar School, where he was consistently bottom of the class, preferring

selling to studying. At the age of ten, despite anti-Semitic abuse at school, he was buying pens and pencils in bulk and selling them singly at a profit. Then, for three years in his teens, he sold eggs to housewives by obtaining 1,200 of them per week from a local farmer and undercutting the market by sixpence. He spent his lunch-hour attending auctions, where he was buying and selling regularly by the age of 15. While still at school, he decided to approach a local artist to design the front cover of his school magazine, and met David Hockney in his father's Wimpsey Bar. Hockney agreed to do the cover.

Silver left school in 1967, and after a brief spell in Israel with the Israeli military in the aftermath of the Six Day War he returned to Yorkshire to attend Leeds University, where he studied textile management and art history.

After graduating, he set up a shop selling men's clothes in Manchester, where, once again, he undercut the market. Within a few years he had 13 shops across the North of England, and in 1978 he diversified by opening a shop with his younger brother, Robin, selling art and furniture in Manchester.

It was at this time that he met Ernest Hall, a textile manufacturer 20 years his senior. They became close friends, and together they began buying property. In 1983 they bought Dean Clough in Halifax, formerly Crossley's carpet factory, which

offered them 1.25 million sq ft of derelict space. But the partnership lasted only a year. As Hall says, Silver was an individual and preferred to work alone.

Silver sold his half of the mill to Hall, who was intent on transforming the site into a hive of commercial and artistic activity, with craftsmen and theatres working alongside businesses. With the profits from this sale, Silver took his family travelling, and they spent the next three years exploring the world.

They returned in 1987, and Silver threw himself into what was to be his last venture. He bought another disused Victorian textile factory, Salt's Mill, situated just outside the town of Saltaire, with 850 workers' homes, a school and a church. Since the closure of the mill in the 1970s, the town had been in economic decline.

The project was a struggle at first, and a deal to move the South Asia Collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum to the mill finally foundered; but the mill now houses information technology businesses alongside a theatre, restaurant and the Hockney Museum, the world's largest permanent collection of the artist's paintings. Last year the Regeneration Through Heritage programme was launched at Salt's Mill by the Prince of Wales.

Jonathan Silver leaves his widow, Maggie, and two daughters.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## ROY GODDEN



Roy Godden, OBE, former Director of the Clothing and Footwear Institute, died on September 27 aged 70. He was born on November 4, 1926.

ROY GODDEN played an important part in the development of the modern clothing industry. In the 1950s he realised the need to employ mass production technology in what was then still a craft industry, so as to satisfy the demand for more highly styled ready-to-wear fashions at a reasonable price. In his work for the Clothing Institute he helped to equip British factories with suitable machines and systems, and to train a new breed of technicians to work them. He also instigated courses in clothing and fashion colleges throughout the country, and organised the first exhibitions of machinery for an industry which at the time employed 250,000 people.

Rodwell William James Godden was educated at Whitgift Middle School and the Levens School of Economics, where he took a BSc in economics in 1947. He then spent 25 years in the clothing industry, as chartered secretary, secretary and then Director of the Clothing Institute, which later became the Clothing and Footwear Institute.

When he began his career,

he recalled, he was often told that there was no such thing as the clothing industry: "It was just a name given to a collection of separate trades, such as tailoring, dress manufacture, shirt-making, corsetry and so on. They all had separate trade associations, most had their own trade journals, and they regarded with some suspicion a new professional body dedicated to recognition of the status of clothing technologists."

Many of the small businesses which did not recognise the

need to organise in the face of international competition went bust, but to others Godden showed a way forward. He helped the industry to make the most of government-sponsored bodies such as the Clothing Industry Development Council and Training Board.

He brought together different kinds of expertise, drawing on the traditions of the old crafts, City and Guilds courses and the new polytechnics to organise proper training and technical qualifications. Perhaps his greatest achievement was to establish new qualifica-

tions that are recognised worldwide.

He was appointed OBE in 1977 for services to education in the industry. He was also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries and was awarded the freedom of the City of London.

After suffering a heart attack, Godden retired from the clothing industry, and together with Ken Clark formed a company in 1982 to publish the trade magazines *Apparel International*, *Career Secretary*, *Explosives Engineer* and *Office & Information Technology*. The company was wound up in 1992.

Godden was always deeply involved in local organisations, and was a committed Christian. After his retirement in 1981 he served as a governor of Benson School and as chairman of Edenham High School.

He was also chairman of the Shirley Short Mat Bowls Club, and organised many bowls events.

When his wife, Pat, became ill with kidney failure, and needed a transplant, he not only cared for her, but became involved with the South West Thames Kidney Fund. As the fund's honorary treasurer, he helped to raise £500,000 for a suite of renal research laboratories at St Helier Hospital, Carshalton.

He is survived by his wife Pat and two sons.

## A WAR-TIME ZOO

## STOCK OF ANIMALS RETAINED

From Our Special Correspondent

Large numbers of the public still believe that the London Zoo is closed, in spite of many notices in the Press to the contrary and a recent broadcast. Actually the Gardens were only closed in the early days of September, and have now been open again for a month. The public have the further impression that many of the Zoo's important animals have been destroyed or evacuated. The actual fact is that an ordinary visitor to the Gardens to-day would scarcely notice any difference in its stock of animal inhabitants. The comprehensiveness and completeness of the collection has been in no way impaired by the destruction of a few redundant and mostly elderly animals. In the aquarium and reptile house alone can any serious change be noticed.

As for evacuation, this has taken place on a small scale, and the only notable absentees are the giant pandas and the riding elephants. All the rest of the Zoo's rare and curious creatures are still at Regent's Park, and the Zoo authorities have no intention of letting them go. This week some of those few who

## ON THIS DAY

October 14, 1939

London Zoo was closed briefly in the early days of the Second World War. By October 1939, however, some of the animals that had been moved to Whipsnade had returned to Regent's Park.

were originally evacuated to Whipsnade have returned to Regent's Park. These include the two orang-utans, some spoonbills, cariamas and tamarisks, as well as a fine group of eight crowned pigeons, which are now housed in the phasmidarium. This return does not mark any change of policy, since the birds had been sent to Whipsnade for the summer weather only, and the orang-utans had only left until such time as the monkey house had settled down to a routine suitable to its reduced staff. A few birds of a kind which could safely be trusted to look after themselves have been retained in Regent's Park. These include some kites; yesterday one was flying

over the Gardens much to the interest of a flock of starlings, which, though it could not be said to have been mobbing the kite, was following it about intently. A pair of kestrels have also been released, several jays, magpies and jackdaws, and some of the common herons from the southern aviary. One of these last-named birds attracted admiring attention from members of the public crossing one of the bridges over Regent's Canal. The bird was stalking majestically along the bank of the canal catching innumerable small darts with swift darts of its beak. Among the first war babies at the Zoo were a pair of twin African crested porcupines, of which the survivor is doing extremely well.

The Society's Library is now open again to fellows after its statutory month for cleaning. In this case, however, cleaning has meant a very large reorganization. Many of the valuable runs of journals (which make the Zoo one of the most comprehensive private zoological libraries in the world) have been moved to the basement, and a new temporary index has been prepared, so that fellows will have little delay in getting the books they want. As previously reported, a few (but only a few) irreplaceable books have been transferred to a safe place in the country.







# Your full guide to ITF players and transfers

The weekend's World Cup results mean that players will be even keener to catch their national manager's eye

The World Cup may be eight months away, but the effects of this weekend's qualifying match results will be felt throughout the English and Scottish premier leagues — and, therefore, in Interactive Team Football.

Between now and the beginning of the tournament in France, players on the fringes of the victorious England and Scotland squads will be doing everything in their power to catch the eye of Glenn Hoddle or Craig Brown, while even fairly established internationals will be out to ensure that their places are not usurped by up-and-coming talent.

Hoddle has stated that places are by no means set in stone: strong motivation, then, for players like Chris Sutton of Blackburn Rovers, to continue the early-season form which has already brought him 41 ITF points, and for Stan Collymore (only 12 points so far) to find the goals and the performances to justify his membership of Hoddle's 22.

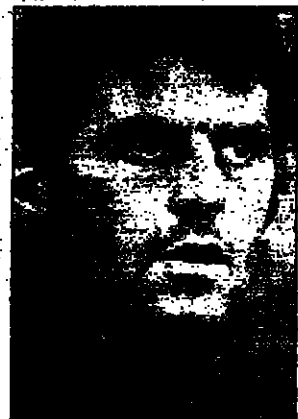
Other strong contenders in the ITF lists are Rio Ferdinand, the West Ham central defender, despite a minus points total, and Emile Heskey, the Leicester City forward: two young players who seem certain to make full international debuts before the end of the season. Injury problems have affected the chances of Liverpool's Rob Jones, Andy Hinchcliffe of



Everton, and Les Ferdinand of Spurs, not to mention Jamie Redknapp.

The Scotland squad appears more cut-and-dried, but the fitness of Celtic's Darren Jackson will be under scrutiny, and Alan Main, the Hearts goalkeeper, has a chance.

Republic of Ireland players, who were never likely to finish above Romania in group eight, are happy to have qualified for a play-off, but will there be a post-Rome hangover among the disappointed Italian players currently playing in Britain? Attilio Lombardo, Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo will be directly involved in the Italy's two-legged play-off against Russia, and may find their form for Chelsea adversely affected



by the tension involved. Other Italian exiles, in contrast, may feel a need to respond to inevitable dressing-room ribbing with enhanced performances: so now might be the time to look at Francesco Baiano and Stefano Eranio of Derby County, Alessandro Pistone of Newcastle, or Benito Carbone and Paolo Di Canio of Sheffield Wednesday as transfer targets. Marco Negri of Rangers will find the Scottish dressing-rooms equally unforgiving.

Wales and Northern Ireland have both had several months to get used to the idea of failing to qualify, but some traditionally strong countries will also be staying at home: Sweden, for instance. Watch out for Henrik Larsson of Celtic cheering himself up with a goal or two.



Under scrutiny: Jackson of Celtic, above left, and Hinchcliffe of Everton

## TRANSFERS

No changes to ITF this week

### HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-Tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-Tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.

Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-9
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	35
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	22
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	-24
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	3.50	0	24
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	16
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10801	E De Gooij	Chelsea	3.00	0	10
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	28
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11101	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	17
11201	M Poon	Derby County	1.50	2	27
11301	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	0	-14
11401	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	0	0
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	-1
11601	G Rousset	Hearts	1.50	0	25
11701	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0
11801	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	3	-8
11901	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	0	25
12001	K Keller	Leicester City	2.50	-3	38
12101	D James	Liverpool	3.50	0	17
12201	P Schmich	Manchester United	5.00	0	56
12301	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12401	S Given	Newcastle	4.00	0	32
12501	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	3
12601	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-8
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	0.50	0	0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	7
12901	I Walker	Tottenham	3.00	0	27
13001	L Mikhosko	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	7
13101	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	19

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	9
20301	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	19
20401	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00	0	10
20501	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	12
20601	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	0	10
20701	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	0	-10
20801	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	4
20901	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	0	-3
21001	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	-5
21101	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00	0	-4
21201	J Kenna	Blackburn	2.50	0	20
21301	P Valery	Blackburn	2.50	0	9
21401	N Cox	Bolton	2.00	0	3
21501	M Whitlow	Bolton	1.50	0	3
21601	R Elliott	Bolton	2.00	0	4
21701	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	0	15
21801	T McKinnay	Celtic	3.50	0	1
21901	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	0	8
22001	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	0	15
22101	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	0	17
22201	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
22301	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	9
22401	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	6
22501	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	8
22601	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	10
22701	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	5
22801	K Muscat	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	15
22901	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	1	15
23001	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	0
23101	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	0	-7
23201	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	-2
23301	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	2
23401	G Locke	Hearts	1.50	0	2
23501	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	1	1
23601	G Kelly	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	10
23701	D Robertson	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	11
23801	S Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	-1	26
23901	S Bjornbeie	Liverpool	4.00	0	9
24001	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
24101	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	1
24201	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	21
24301	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	15
24401	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.00	0	18
24501	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	18
24601	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	20
24701	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	6
24801	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	9
24901	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	0	11
25001	S Stensaa	Rangers	2.00	0	-16
25101	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-8
25201	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	9
25301	J Dodd	Southampton	1.00	0	-3
25401	F Benall	Southampton	0.75	0	-3
25501	S Charlton	Southampton	2.00	0	1
25601	C Wilson	Tottenham	2.00	0	1
25701	J Edinburgh	Tottenham	2.00	0	0
25801	S Carr	Tottenham	2.00	0	0
25901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	0
26001	A Izpey	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	-4
26101	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0	-2
26201	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0	3
26301	A Kizile	Wimbledon	2.00	0	1

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-11
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0	9
30301	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30401	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	12
30501	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	5
30601	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	5
30701	U Ehlogu	Aston Villa	3.50	0	12
30801	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	-16
30901	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	-14
31001	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	-2
31101	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	0	18
31201	S Henschow	Blackburn	2.50	0	10
31301	T Pedersen	Blackburn	2.00	0	4
31401	G Taggart	Bolton	1.50	0	4
31501	G Bergeson	Bolton	1.00	0	5
31601	C Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0	0
31701	M Flash	Bolton	1.50	0	0
31801	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	0	1
31901	M Mackay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
32001	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	11
32101	M Rieper	Celtic	3.00	0	6
32201	F Labouef	Chelsea	3.00	0	10
32301	M Daberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	8
32401	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	5
32501	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	-1
32601	L Delsch	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
32701	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	12
32801	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1
32901	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	3
33001	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	3
33101	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
33201	I Siddons	Derby County	2.50	1	7
33301	J Laurens	Derby County	1.50	1	13
33401	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	-4
33501	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0	-4
33601	S Bille	Everton	2.50	0	-7
33701	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	-5
33801	D Hughes	Hearts	2.00	0	16
33901	J Weir	Hibernian	2.00	0	1
34001	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.00	0	16
34101	G Halle	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	11
34201	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	8
34301	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	1.50	0	5
34401	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	3	31
34501	P Kassam	Leicester City	2.00	0	20
34601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	0	25
34701	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	5
34801	S Barmby	Liverpool	3.00	0	8
34901	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	23
35001	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
35101	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	28
35201	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	13
35301	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	15
35401	S Howey	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	5
35501	A Pistone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	8
35601	S Pount	Rangers	3.50	0	10
35701	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	10
35801	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
35901	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-3
36001	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	0
36101	P Asherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-8
36201	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	-5
36301	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	0
36401	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	0	5
36501	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	0
36601	S Campbell	Tottenham	3.00	0	6
36701	J Scates	Tottenham	2.50	0	6
36801	R Vega	Tottenham	2.00	0	8
36901	C Calderwood	Tottenham	2.00	0	-4
37001	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	0
37101	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
37201	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	-5
37301	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	0
37401	I Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	-6
37501	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	6
37601	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	3

Transfer Plans					
Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40605	J Pollock	Bolton	2.00	0	11
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	0	13
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	6
42503	R Binkley	Celtic	3.00	0	4
40704	C Bury	Celtic	3.00	0	19
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0	16
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	16
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	28
40901	G McAlistair	Coventry City	2.50	0	13
40902	T Solovet	Coventry City	1.50	0	13
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	13
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	8
41003	D Pither	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	17
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	3.00	0	18
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	2
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	1	15
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	1
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	1	12
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	1	8
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	12
41201	R Winters	Dundee Utd	3.50	0	17
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	0	18
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	0	20
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	4
41404	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	0	7
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	0	20
41801	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	1
41802	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	17
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41001	D Hopkin	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	16
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds Utd	3.00	0	4
41802	A Haaland	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	11
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	0
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	1	6
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	1	16
41903	M Beut	Leicester City	2.00	0	21
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	3.00	0	21
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	7.00	0	0
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	0	14
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
42006	P Ince	Liverpool	5.00	0	24
42101	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	8.00	0	14
42102	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	19
42103	R Keane	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	23
42104	N Butt	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	25
42105	A Cole	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	10
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0	0
42301	R Lee	Newcastle Utd	5.00	0	14
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle Utd	3.50	0	9
42303	D Batty	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	10
42005	J Barnes	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	13
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.00	0	11
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	0	10
42403	J Thern	Rangers	4.00	0	2
42404	J Albertz	Rangers	4.00	0	14
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wed	3.00	0	27
42701	J Magilton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	12
42502	M Pembbridge	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	8
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wed	1.00	0	4
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	0	3
42703	N Maddison	Southampton	0.75	0	11
42704	K Richardson	Southampton	0.50	0	5
42705	C Palmer	Southampton	1.50	0	3
42601	A Sokerlioglu	St Johnstone	0.75	0	8
42801	A Sinton	Tottenham	3.00	0	5
42802	D Anderton	Tottenham	3.00	0	0
42803	R Fox	Tottenham	2.00	0	11
42804	D Howells	Tottenham	2.00	0	9
42805	D Glnola	Tottenham	3.00	0	11
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	21
42902	S Lomas	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	11
42903	J Monour	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	6
43001	R Earle	Wimbledon	4.50	0	11
43002	N Ardley	Wimbledon	2.00	0	5
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0	6
42904	M Hughes	Wimbledon	2.00	0	7
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0	0



## NEWS

## Belfast loyalist crowd jostles Blair

■ Tony Blair was jostled and heckled by a crowd of loyalists in East Belfast last night after he became the first Prime Minister in three-quarters of a century to meet Irish republican leaders.

About 100 protesters shouted "traitor", "scum" and "shame" as the Prime Minister attempted an ill-advised walkabout in a shopping centre less than an hour after shaking hands with Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin's president, and Martin McGuinness, its chief negotiator, at the Stormont peace talks. Pages 1, 21

## Cook storm clouds Queen's visit

■ A row over remarks by Robin Cook threatened to overshadow the Queen's state visit to India. Indian officials objected to his offer to Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's Prime Minister, and Gohar Ayub Khan, the Foreign Minister, to help to find a "just solution" to the Kashmir dispute. Pages 1, 13, 21

## Babies at risk

Two senior surgeons carried out complicated heart operations on babies when they must have known that far too many of their patients were dying, the General Medical Council heard. Page 3

## John Denver dies

John Denver, 53, one of the most successful American folk singers of his generation, was killed when an "experimental" aircraft he was piloting crashed off Northern California. Page 5

## Dog owner banned

A pastor has been banned from keeping dogs for two years after a court was told that she tried to heal her albatross through the power of prayer as it lay injured in the road. Page 6

## Dome rises

The Millennium Dome began to rise from a patch of Greenwich wasteland. Its creators insisted that the project would be on time and within budget. Page 7

## Footballer sues

A former England Under-21 footballer whose leg was broken by a tackle launched a compensation claim which could have widespread repercussions. Page 8

## Dawn duel on air

After the first round of the Chris Evans (Virgin Radio) and Zoe Ball/Kevin Greening (Radio 1) breakfast-time match Peter Barnard puts Evans ahead. Page 9

## Veggie scholars miss their greens

■ Two £1,000 scholarships for vegetarians to Wycliffe College in Gloucestershire have been unclaimed for at least four years. The school, where fees are £13,000 a year, has promoted a meat-free diet since the Edwardian era. The headmaster said: "It's a puzzle. Perhaps we haven't marketed them as much as our music, drama and sporting scholarships". Page 3

## Appeal to fans

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, asked all English fans who were hurt during the match in Rome to write to him about the treatment they received from their Italian hosts. Pages 10, 21

## Asylum on the river

A consortium of five London boroughs is considering housing hundreds of homeless asylum-seekers on the Thames in a floating hotel made from offshore oil platforms. Page 11

## World on fire

Fears for the world's great woodlands and their wildlife increased as huge fires were blazing in Indonesia, the Amazon basin, northwestern China and Western Australia. Page 12

## Gates backs gun ban

Bill Gates, the software tycoon, has thrown his weight behind an attempt to impose new curbs on guns in the West Coast state of Washington. Pages 13, 21

## Kohl on the stump

Helmut Kohl launched Germany's longest election campaign with a party conference speech to reassure his Christian Democratic Union supporters. Page 16

## Mossad outcry

Opposition members of the Knesset called for the resignation of Benjamin Netanyahu in a debate about a bungled Mossad operation. Page 17



Captain Fidelix Danson at the Ministry of Defence yesterday when the Army launched a drive for ethnic minority recruits. Page 1

## Business

Merger: Reed Elsevier has agreed a £17.5 billion merger with Wolters Kluwer. It is likely to put its IPC magazine division up for sale if the deal goes ahead. Page 27

## Football: Arsène Wenger

Arsène Wenger, manager of Arsenal, will rest at least eight first team players for the match against Birmingham in the Coca-Cola Cup, a competition which he believes is in danger of becoming extinct. Page 52

## Rugby union: Jeremy Guscott

Jeremy Guscott's international career is unlikely to resume until the new year because of a disc problem that will keep him out for at least a month. Page 49

## Golf: Colin Montgomerie

Colin Montgomerie, the best player in Europe, with a good chance of winning the Order of Merit for a fifth time, should move to America. Page 48

## Tennis: Greg Rusedski

Greg Rusedski has improved his chance of qualification for the eight-man ATP Tour world championship. Page 52

## Sport

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## Arts

Prairie pride: Created in 1938 by two Leeds dance teachers, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet is back in London after a 15-year absence. Debra Crane meets its artistic director. Page 34

## Sense and sensuality: The Tate

Gallery showcases the luscious female images in works by Rossetti, Watts, Burne-Jones and the other Symbolists. Page 35

## Fast forward: Richard Morrison

has seen and heard the classical music show of the future, and it involves interactive CDs, a mouse and some hard thinking. Page 35

## Song of praise: When Graham

Johnson founded the Songmakers' Almanac 21 years ago, he turned the world of song recital on its head — and he hasn't stopped. Page 36

## Law awards: In association with

One Essex Court, The Times launches its annual essay competition. Page 39

## Trading faces: Can you take out

copyright on your own image? A leading media lawyer on profitable faces. Page 41

## The present Italian Government

crisis confirms the need to change the way the political system itself functions. Italy needs further constitutional reform to achieve stable rule by an elected majority and to replace the unelected group of the Bertinotti's Communists holding a government to ransom on the absurd and arrogant assumption that they speak for "the people" when they do not. Page 21

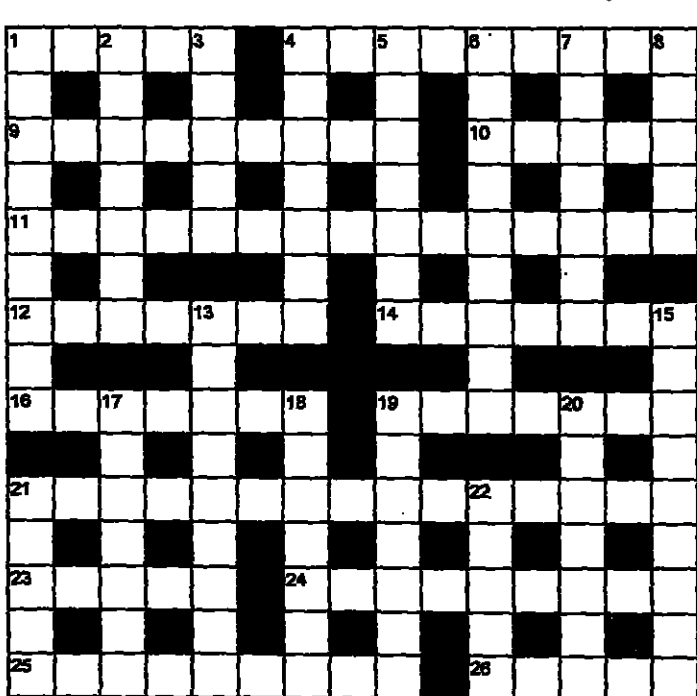
## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE  
Why are the IT professionals of tomorrow being taught yesterday's skills?

■ INTERVIEW  
Ramon Tikaram, *This Life's* Ferdy, talks about his role as Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,610



- ACROSS
- 1 Fly over the normal pitch (5).
  - 2 Those starting wars, we hear, upset one at first (9).
  - 3 Article on pawn position in game (9).
  - 4 Helping a learner with oriental philosophy (9).
  - 5 Backing former Emperor and African leader? (5).
  - 6 A beak that's broken quacks few orders (8,7).
  - 7 Dab hand with spirit or solvent (7).
  - 8 Put one's foot down when drug's found at college (5,2).
  - 9 Short top worn by little nipper (7).
  - 10 Stroke bird, for example (7).
  - 11 Undesirable nag a partner soon abandoned (7,3,5).
  - 12 Girl who rejects help (5).
  - 13 Daring sort, guarding English Queens? (9).
- Solution to Puzzle No 20,609
- DOWN
- 1 American sport's pitch — most unusual sort (9).
  - 2 Paper object (7).
  - 3 Chairperson absorbing old evidence that's conclusive (5).
  - 4 Couple accepting end of affair, that's plain (7).
  - 5 Discriminating types not having old favourites? (7).
  - 6 Turn blue when upset and start to turn violent (9).
  - 7 Rather popular and most reliable (7).
  - 8 Lower fare (5).
  - 9 To treat a stoop, the appropriate specialist? (9).
  - 10 Star writer with style and impact (9).
  - 11 Part of tremor is coming from North Africa (7).
  - 12 Man on board announced plan (7).
  - 13 During plague old wife's shown courage (7).
  - 14 A fund supporting retired vet (7).
  - 15 End up on a spike (5).
  - 16 Fine a thousand pounds (5).

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## Hours of darkness

Sun sets 7:23 am  
Moon sets 6:10 pm  
Moon rises 5:30 pm  
Full moon Oct 16  
London 6:10 pm to 7:25 am  
Edinburgh 6:10 pm to 7:44 am  
Manchester 6:10 pm to 7:36 am  
Penzance 6:30 pm to 7:44 am

## Newspapers support recycling

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## FORECAST

General: most areas will have a cold start followed by a milder day with heavy sunbursts, but there will be light rain at first in Wales, the North, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Wet and breezy tonight, except for eastern areas, which will be cold and dry.

## London, SE England, Central S

England, Channel Isles, SW England: a cold start, dry with heavy sunbursts. Light northwesterly wind. Max 13C (55F).

## E Anglia, E Midlands, S England, W

Midlands: cold and sunny start, cloudier by afternoon. Light to moderate northwesterly breeze. Max 12C (54F).

## S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man: cloud

and patchy drizzle at first, becoming drier with sunny intervals. Moderate west to northwesterly breeze. Max 13C (55F).

## NW England, Lake District, Central

N, NE England, Borders, SW Scotland: patchy drizzle on coasts and hills at first, becoming drier from the west with sunny intervals. Moderate northwesterly breeze. Max 11C (52F).

## Edinburgh &amp; Dundee, Aberdeen

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: cloud and patchy rain or drizzle, brighter and drier from the west later. Moderate northwesterly breeze. Milder. Max 13C (55F).

## Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney

Shetland: cloud and light rain clearing early, a few bright spells following. More cloud and rain later. Moderate westerly wind, freshening southwesterly later. Max 12C (54F).

## Northern Ireland, Irish Republic

sunny intervals, becoming cloudy with rain, sometimes heavy. Freshening southwest wind. Max 12C (54F).

## Outlook: cloudy, rain or showers.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloudy; d=drizzle; ds=drizzle; s=sunny; sw=showers; w=wind; x=not available

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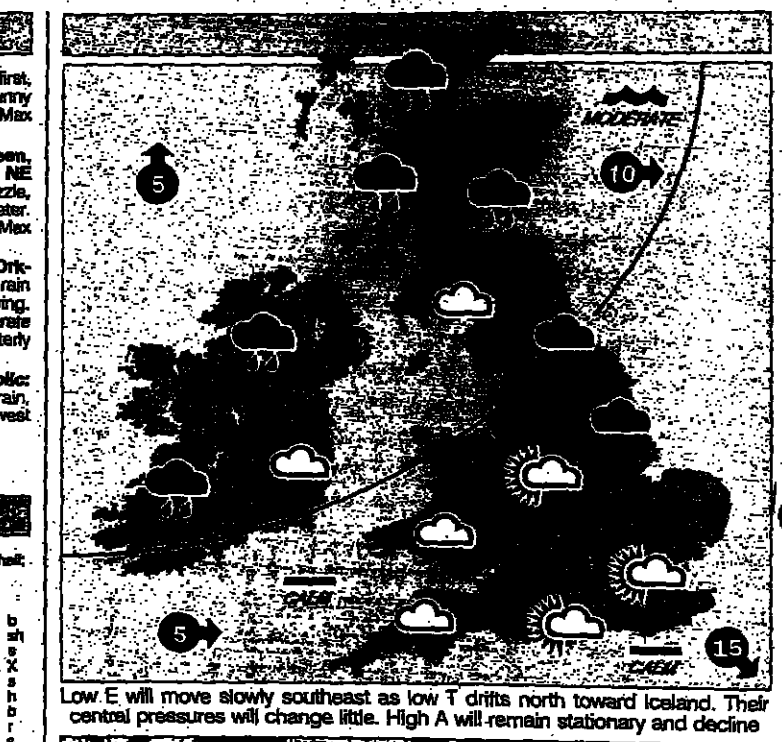
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Low E will move slowly southeast as low F drifts north toward Iceland. Their central pressures will change little. High A will remain stationary and decline

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# 2 TODAY



**A tobacco company  
lightens its load  
to reach the heights  
PAGE 31**



**Launch of the 1997  
Times law  
awards competition  
PAGES 39-41**



**Hoddle and Brown  
take similar  
route to France  
PAGES 46-52**

**50. 51**

Sth

# BUSINESS TODAY

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## The North South divide is returning, says study

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE consumer spending boom has re-opened the North/South economic divide, according to a new report out today.

Business Strategies, the economics forecasting group, found that the economy in the South is roaring ahead on the back of strong growth in the services sector, but that manufacturing-intensive regions in the north of the country are struggling under the weight of the strong pound.

The report forecasts that growth in private services will hit around 6.4 per cent this year, compared with growth of just 1.7 per cent in manufacturing.

London is leading the way, with growth predicted to reach 5 per cent this year, above even the best levels seen in the 1980s. The South East, the South West and the East Midlands will also enjoy growth of more than 3.3 per cent on the back of strong consumer spending.

In contrast, Wales will grow by just 1.1 per cent this year, while Yorkshire and Humberside, the North West and the North will also suffer growth rates well below the national average.

Neil Blake, research director of Business Strategies, said: "After a number of years when the greater mobility of service industries produced a more even regional spread of the gains from economic growth, this year's consumer boom is definitely producing a pattern akin to the old North/South divide."

East Anglia, a star performer in the 1980s, has bucked the trend as regional rationalisation of the financial services sector has held back growth. Scotland has enjoyed above average growth because of inward investment from the electronics industry, although the report says that the investment has created few extra jobs.

Business Strategies believes that overall UK growth is set to slow sharply next year because of the strong pound, monetary tightening and the end of the windfall effect. The report argues that the economy should enjoy a "soft landing", with growth slowing from 3.4 per cent this year to 2 per cent in 1998.



David Varney, chief executive of BG, which sold its gasfields in the East Irish Sea to a US company in a deal worth £98.5 million

## CBI sounds warning on minimum pay level

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

MINISTERS need to set a "modest" minimum wage if they want to avoid "serious" job losses, business leaders say today.

However, Britain's unions argue today that there is no evidence that a minimum wage will have a "devastating" impact on jobs, and that it should be set at "somewhat above £4 an hour."

Business and union leaders will today give evidence to the Low Pay Commission, set up by the Government to advise it on the level at which Labour's proposed statutory minimum wage should be set.

In the Commission's first

session, Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, and John Monks, TUC General Secretary, will put the business and union cases to it.

In advance of today's meeting, Mr Turner said that there is compelling evidence that a minimum wage with a wide spread effect could cause significant job losses. "Even a modest minimum, set around the £3 mark, could lead to job losses if wage differentials are restored," he said.

The CBI says that a minimum wage should be used to create a "floor" for the labour market rather than be aimed at significantly raising pay.

Such an approach would not lead companies to make big changes, whereas a high minimum "will clearly result in rising prices, business closures and unemployment". A high minimum of about £4.40 could, with partial restoration of pay differentials, cost up to 250,000 jobs, the CBI said.

The Government is urging the commission to consider exempting all people under 25, but the CBI says that an exemption should only apply to all those under 19.

The CBI and the TUC agree that the commission should work on a permanent basis,

but the TUC insists in its evidence that any employment effect of a national minimum wage "hovers around zero".

Noting that unions have been reaching deals for more than £4 an hour, the TUC says: "Progress made towards the collective bargaining target suggests that a minimum wage level of somewhat above £4 an hour is practical."

The TUC rejects a minimum wage differentiated by sector or region, and attacks the idea of an "arbitrary" age exemption of people up to 25, which, it says, might encourage employers to exploit younger workers as cheap labour.

## BG sells Irish Sea gasfields to Texans

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BG, the pipeline and exploration division of the former British Gas, has sold its gasfields in the East Irish Sea to a US company in a deal worth £98.5 million.

The sale, to Burlington Resources, of Texas, is part of a big programme of disposals by BG, which will today hear new proposals from the industry regulator for the pricing formula for Transco, its pipeline business. The two sides are at odds over a revenue cap based on volumes in the latest twist in a long dispute largely settled by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) several months ago.

BG, of which David Varney is chief executive, signalled a substantial disposals programme after the MMC ruling by pledging that it would have off non-core operations. The East Irish Sea interests, which include ten operated and four non-operated blocks, were decided to be non-core to BG after the Morecambe Bay field, the nearest exploration and development area, was given to Centrica — the supply half of British Gas — in the demerger early this year.

Frank Chapman, executive director responsible for BG's exploration and production, said: "The sale of these properties represents a key milestone in our programme of rationalising our portfolio so as to focus effort on growth assets."

The sale is subject to approval by the Department of Trade and Industry.

## Confidence falters in building industry

HOPES of a construction boom have weakened as realisation has grown in the industry that the Government will not relax tight spending limits. In spite of a growth in construction output during the third quarter the expectations of future workload fell among chartered surveyors' quarterly survey showed that a net balance of 47 per cent expect construction activity to increase in the coming year. This compares with 64 per cent who forecast a rise between those previously. The net balance is the difference between those reporting an increase in confidence against those reporting a decrease. Some 57.1 per cent expected an increase, 34.9 per cent predicted no change while 8 per cent expected a decline in business. Building output rose by 7 per cent in the third quarter and was 19 per cent up on the previous year.

Richard Houghton, RICS construction industry spokesman, said: "As it becomes clear that the Blair administration will stick to the public spending levels set by the Conservatives, and there will be no immediate injection of funds into infrastructure projects, the industry is clearly scaling down expectations of a construction boom."

## Meyer-Harcros talks

MEYER INTERNATIONAL is in talks about the acquisition of Harcros, the builders' merchant division of Harrisons & Crossfield. The acquisition, which could cost more than £300 million, would be funded through bank debt and the issue of new shares. H&C also revealed yesterday that it would suffer a £38 million pre-tax loss on the £40 million (\$65 million) sale of Lumber and Building Supplies, part of its Moore US subsidiary. Meyer shares fell 8 p.p. to 423 p.p. H&C rose 6 p.p. to 136 p.p. *Tempus*, page 30

## Safeway's Ulster debut

NORTHERN IRELAND'S first fully fledged Safeway store should be opening its doors in time for Christmas, according to Fitzwilliam, the Irish partner in Safeway's supermarkets joint venture. Safeway paid £65 million in June for nine Wellworth stores owned by Fitzwilliam, the holding company of Tony O'Reilly. Fitzwilliam's pre-tax profits fell to £14.27 million (£3.86 million) from £15.1 million in the six months to June 30. The interim dividend, due January 30, is increased 5 per cent to 11.15p a share.

## Bisichi ahead at halfway

BISICHI MINING, the company that finances the development of international coalmining operations with surplus income from its UK retail property portfolio valued at £5.9 million, reported a rise in pre-tax profits from £75,000 to £190,000 for the six months to June 30. Turnover rose by 33 per cent from £1.5 million to £2 million and earnings per share rose by 22 per cent from 0.73p to 0.89p. The company said profits had been boosted by its part-owned Black Watle Colliery in South Africa. No interim dividend will be paid.

## CRH expands in US

CRH, the building materials group based in the Republic of Ireland, is acquiring the New York Trap Rock Corporation for \$40 million (£24.2 million) from Lone Star Industries. The business has two quarries in southern New York state with reserves of more than 350 million tonnes. Last year the company sold \$4.7 million tonnes of aggregates. Sales totalled \$48.2 million (£30 million) and the trading profit was \$3.6 million. CRH says the acquisition will complement the New York operations of its Oldcastle Materials Group subsidiary.

## Tay helped by disposal

TAY HOMES, the housebuilder based in Leeds, reported pre-tax profits of £7.9 million for the year to June 30, helped by a £2.8 million exceptional profit from a disposal. In the previous year, pre-tax profits were £11.2 million. Adjusted earnings rose to 11.3p a share from 7.5p. The total dividend rises to 7.5p a share from 7p, with a 5.8p final. The shares rose 6p to 152 p.p. Turnover from continuing operations improved to £131.5 million from £100 million, lifting trading profits to £8.65 million from £4.4 million.

## Tesco buys two stores

TESCO, Britain's largest supermarket group, is building up its presence in the South West of England by buying two stores in Somerset. Tesco will pay up to £4.9 million — equal to the net asset value of the supermarkets — in shares for the 8,000 sq ft store in Lymington owned by Sanders Supermarkets and its 16,000 sq ft store in Burnham. Tesco will initially allot 846,170 of its shares, worth £3.9 million, with the balance to be paid if a review of the Sanders Supermarkets balance sheet proves satisfactory.

## Nordic banks merge

NORDBANKEN, Sweden's third-largest bank, and Merita, the largest bank in Finland, are to merge, creating the Nordic region's biggest bank, worth around £6.5 billion. It will be among the top ten Nordic companies. MeritaNordbanken will be owned 60 per cent by Nordbanken and 40 per cent by Merita. Voting rights will be equal. The merger is expected to give savings of £76 million a year for three years. About 600 jobs will be lost in each bank. Restructuring costs are estimated at £69 million.

## Rugby's stake in Poland

RUGBY GROUP, the UK building materials company, is to invest up to £60.5 million for a controlling stake in Cementownia Chelm, one of Poland's leading cement manufacturers. Rugby has acquired an initial 34.3 per cent interest for £15.4 million and has an option to increase ownership to 75 per cent. Cementownia has an annual capacity of two million tonnes and a national market share of 10 per cent. A new cement plant with an annual capacity of 1.6 million tonnes is due for completion in mid-1999.

## SFA appoints chief for final two years

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Securities and Futures Authority has appointed Chris Woodburn, its head of operations, to take over as chief executive after the departure of Richard Farrant to NewRo, the new financial services regulator being launched next year.

Mr Woodburn, 50, was previously deputy chief executive of The Securities Association, the predecessor of the SFA. He will now steer the frontline regulator

in its final two years of authority.

Nicholas Durlacher, the SFA chairman, said: "The range of his regulatory experience in this country is near matchless and, though, quite understandably, NewRo will be the regulator to watch, we still have crucial legal obligations to meet for a while yet. Chris is the right man to ensure that SFA's reputation remains in credit."

## DBS helps with bill for pension review

By CAROLINE MERRELL

DBS, the UK's biggest network of independent financial advisers, has agreed to pay some of the administration costs of the personal pensions review on behalf of its firms.

Ken Davy, DBS chairman, said the company had decided to bear additional costs of £1.2 million after member firms had threatened to leave the network. Mr Davy said: "The extra costs are for sending out the letters and carrying out the administration for the review."

The company has already been fined a total £425,000 by the Personal Investment Authority, because of the slow progress in reviewing cases of those that could have been mis-sold a personal pension. Despite the additional costs DBS said turnover was up 35 per cent in the six months to September 30. DBS expects the review to cost it £3.4 million for the year to March 31 1998.

## Rhône-Poulenc set for drugs revival

By PAUL DURMAN

RHÔNE-POULENC, the French pharmaceuticals and chemicals group, is set to benefit from a strong pipeline of new drugs and a revival of profits in its chemicals business, London investors were told yesterday.

Rhône-Poulenc is seeking to raise at least Fr6.7 billion (£700 million) through a share and warrants issue. This is part of a switch from chemicals to pharmaceuticals that has already seen the group buy the bulk of the minority holding in Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, its US-quoted drugs arm. The group, which two years ago bought Fisons for £1.8 billion, hopes to take advantage of the high stock market valuations enjoyed by drugs companies.

Igor Landau, group president, said he saw big potential for growth from new or extended drugs such as the anti-thrombotic Lovenox, the Taxotere cancer drug and a new antibiotic, Pasteur Merieux Connaught, the vaccines arm, will benefit from a vaccine that protects against six child diseases.

Jean-René Fourtou, chairman and chief executive, said he expects improved results from the group's chemical business, which is to be re-named Rhodia. Like ICI, Rhône-Poulenc is concentrating on higher margin specialty chemicals businesses.

Rhône-Poulenc will retain a substantial majority holding in Rhodia when the company is floated next year.

## FTSE considers new sector for technology companies

By ADAM JONES

BRITAIN'S technology companies are likely to discover tomorrow whether they are to be granted their own stock market sector.

In the classification system run by the FTSE International organisation, technology stocks in London are currently sprinkled across several sectors, including engineering and support services.

Tomorrow, a FTSE committee will decide whether to proceed with proposals to group them separately. Fund managers who have been pushing for the change say

the current system encourages the City to ignore technology stocks, which are often under-researched by brokers and investors.

Steven Vale, a FTSE International spokesman, said the organisation recognised that technology stocks have become a big selling point for US exchanges such as Nasdaq, which houses Microsoft and Intel.

The steering committee includes fund managers and brokers and is chaired by Geoff Lindey, a JP Morgan executive. Issues that will need to be considered at the meeting include how to define a

technology stock. Some fund managers would prefer a grouping concentrated on information technology stocks, excluding biotechnology and telecommunications.

The committee will also address worries that the rapid pace of change in technology companies would lead to continual change in the sector's composition.

It is likely that a decision will also be taken on whether to merge the textiles sector, where the number of companies has been in decline with household goods.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.30	2.12
Austria Sch	21.02	19.36
Belgium Fr	33.36	30.00
Canada C\$	2.38	2.19
Cyprus Cyp£	0.864	0.813
Denmark Kr	11.46	10.53
Finland Mk	6.08	5.62
France Fr	10.62	9.84
Germany DM	3.01	2.77
Greece Dr	374	405
Hong Kong \$	10.50	12.16
Ireland Ir£	1.18	1.07
Israel Sh	8.50	5.34
Italy Lit	200	272
Japan Yen	211.03	193.50
Netherlands Gld	0.868	0.807
New Zealand \$	3.35	3.10
Norway Kr	2.47	2.24
Portugal Esc	800.50	720.50
Spain Ptas	166.37	153.63
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.88
Turkey Lira	200.00	277.00
USA \$	1.75	1.58

Notes: For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 1997.

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CHANGING TIMES

**Rhône-Poulenc set for drugs revival**

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Premie calms i with £73

Book total lifts P&O st

Every tim

Signature



Christmas is coming early for the City professionals. The rush of bids and deals promises fat fees to the plethora of advisers involved, whether or not a successful merger results. Thankfully, Reed Elsevier's coming together with Wolters Kluwer seems rooted more in industrial logic than the more avaricious imaginations of investment bankers. The two companies, already world class in their specialist publishing fields, will be even stronger as a unit. If they seemed somewhat muted in their renditions of the benefits to come, it may be because of a real fear about how the regulators may view their marriage.

A £17.5 billion deal might be expected to generate cost savings of more than £50 million a year within three years, but perhaps it would be impolitic to say so when Karel van Miert and his US equivalents are waiting to pounce. Whether they judge the deal to be anti-competitive depends on how they define the market place. For specialist chemistry journals in England, it may be that this deal creates an instant monopoly; similarly for learned legal publications in Missouri.

The joy of being a competition authority is that you can define your terms to suit. But if the authorities were to insist on the new group shedding a few titles to lessen its market share in certain areas, that would be unlikely to stand in the way of a deal.

## Power in publishing partnership



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Putting together two major European companies in the financial services sector might be expected to yield cost savings on an even greater scale than Reed will reap, but strangely the thought does not seem to have crossed the minds of the powers at BAT and Zurich Group when they decided to join forces. For BAT, the deal may be one way of accomplishing the much mooted demerger of its financial operations from its tobacco business, but simplest is not always best.

The arguments in favour of demerger were put forward eloquently by the late Sir James Goldsmith when he took the City by surprise with an audacious bid by a custom-built vehicle by the name of Hoylake.

The highly leveraged nature of the bid would have no doubt appealed to Sir James's gambling friends but was not so attractive to BAT's institutional investors. Nonetheless, there was little obvious reason for keeping tobacco, with its hazardous courtroom risks, in the same stable as an insurer that would charge heavy premiums to smokers.

The suggestion that surveys showed investors warmed to Gartmore and Allied Dunbar

because they were part of BAT was surely a testimony to the fact that market research merely reflects the way the question is worded.

But when all that can be said in favour of a merger is that it will create something bigger, there is cause for concern. Shareholders may feel that they would be entitled to a better price if the *raison d'être* of the deal were somewhat more constructive.

### Seeking bargains with minimum pay

The CBI has declared that it could live with a minimum wage of £3.25 an hour. This must be taken as a bargaining position, indicating that its members could cope with something considerably higher.

With George Bain and his team about to start touring the country to hear the views of those

who will be paying it, and a few of those who may be receiving it, the CBI view will be but one voice among many. Publicly, few companies are willing to voice their fears over how they may be affected by a minimum wage but, privately, there are some that are deeply concerned by the implications of Professor Bain's deliberations, and they are by no means all operating sweat shops in the East End of London.

Despite being long regarded as the meaneast of employers, most leading retailers have little to fear from a minimum wage set at less than £4. At Sainsbury and Tesco, a checkout operator is now likely to be earning close to £4.50 an hour. Not every supermarket, however, pays the same rates. Asda, with a store portfolio biased towards the north of the country, comes in significantly lower in the pay tables. Although chairman Archie Norman was vociferous in fighting for tax relief for his employees' share

options, he has not been quite so keen to up their basic pay.

For many in the hotel and catering industry, £4 an hour would represent a considerable increase. This fact has not gone unnoticed at Granada, where the hotels acquired with the Forte acquisition took the same rigorous approach to wages as they did to the running of the kitchens, where portion control was strictly applied.

Granada's Gerry Robinson was such a strong supporter of Labour before the election that he starred in a party political broadcast on behalf of the party. He could not be seen to query the principle of a minimum wage. But he must be hoping that, having been recruited to Professor Bain's commission, his representative manages to make the employers' case as the vital debate progresses.

And that cannot focus merely on the rate to be applied when the minimum wage comes into

force in 1999. It will also have to be decided quite what components are taken into consideration in assessing what constitutes pay. In catering, for instance, should tips form part of the equation? Knowledge that staff were being paid properly could put a stop to the conscience money that customers feel obliged to pay.

### Coal still has few friends

Life was always going to be hard for the relics of the Britain's coalmining industry after the three-year contracts fixed before privatisation run out next Spring. At an industrial level, the dash for gas is now beginning to make a savage impact on demand for coal-fired power. Generators still using coal stations also want to diversify their sources, both internationally and even domestically, via opencast production.

At the political and macro-economic level, things are even worse. Sterling has risen by 20 per cent and Gordon Brown's insistence on the Bank of England fixing interest rates left little room for manoeuvre short of

joining a soft euro at a much lower exchange rate. During the same first flush of new government, Tony Blair signed up to new targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Given the Budget cut in VAT on fuel for the home, these targets can probably only be met by following the Tories' anti-coal energy policy. Sure enough, new Labour has approved its first new gas-fired power station and the queue of would-be followers is growing again. When research projects are being cancelled to keep the Health Service going through the winter, the chances of UK funding for clean coal technology also look slim.

Brussels may be able to help. Whatever new Labour said in opposition, however, it does not recognise any debts to the miners. They are as friendless as they were under the Tories, some of whom at least felt guilty.

### Large ones all round

BERNARD ARNAULT may not have had right on his side but, with little more than a willing lawyer, he had the ability to jeopardise the merger of Guinness and GrandMet. Both companies were confident that his case would fail eventually, but could not afford to wait. In the game of greenmail, timing is all. So this round goes to M Arnauld, but working relationships on the GMG board may be a little strained in the future.

## Premier Farnell calms investors with £73m profit

BY FRASER NELSON

PREMIER FARNELL, the international electronic parts-catalogue company formed in a £1.8 billion merger last year, has evaded an institutional revolt after returning steady but slow growth at the halfway stage.

Howard Poulson, whose position as chief executive was under review after the shock profits warning in January, calmed nervous institutions with interim profits of £73.2 million, against the £56.1 million last time, which took in 15

weeks of the enlarged company, and included a £5 million reduction for the strength of sterling.

Institutional shareholders, who put Mr Poulson on nine-month probation, said they were satisfied that the management was making the right moves towards recovery. However, the City was less sympathetic, focusing on the 35 per cent underlying sales growth in the core US market. Analysts said progress on the integration of two catalogue

businesses was too slow, and overall profits had come in at the lower end of expectations.

Mr Poulson said the company's prospects are tied to the cautious recovery in the US electronics market. "The company is a big ship, and it does not change course very quickly," he said. "People would like us to tell them not to worry and that this will be the year where the growth goes whoosh, but we can't do that."

He said the 1996 downturn was a reaction to the frenzied spending of the year before when American mechanics and electrical retailers ordered more stock than they needed. This had created an artificial boom and bust that had now run its course. "All that froth from the 1995 orders has gone, and it's not going to come back," he said. "We're now in place for a recovery."

BZW, which issued the January profits warning, downgraded profits forecasts from £165 million to £155 million yesterday, compared with last year's £173 million. Earnings per share were flat at 13.6p, after last year's dividend increases, which delivered £3.65 million to Mort Mandel, the former head of Premier, now group deputy chairman. This year's interim, due November 28, is up from 5.2p to 5.7p.

Temper, 30



Howard Poulson, Premier Farnell chief executive. "We're now in place for a recovery"

## Queensborough broadens appeal

BY DOMINIC WALSH

QUEENSBOROUGH Holdings, the leisure and caravan park operator, is this week expected to announce plans to open up to 20 Macaroni Grill restaurants under an agreement with Brinker International, the quoted US restaurant group.

The company is understood to have signed a joint venture with Brinker with exclusive rights to the Macaroni Grill name in the UK.

The initial agreement with Queensborough envisages 20 openings in ten years, but unlike most other entrants to the UK market, Macaroni Grill will initially steer clear of London, instead targeting major retail and leisure park developments throughout the country. The company

has already identified five suitable sites.

Masterminding Queensborough's entry into casual dining is Michael Guthrie, who was appointed a director in February. Mr Guthrie, who recently sold his BrightReasons group to Whitbread, opted to seek a master franchise for a new concept after an attempt to buy BrightReasons' Pizza Plaza chain back from Whitbread ended in failure.

A move into restaurants would balance the seasonality of Queensborough's caravan and theme park business, which is weighted to the main summer holiday period. Brinker is capitalised at \$1.1 billion on the New York Stock Exchange.

## Bovis flotation lifts P&O shares

BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES IN P&O rose to a new high yesterday as the shipping to property group gave the first details of its plans to float its Bovis Homes division for about £275 million by December.

The company, which is trying to strip itself down to its transport routes, said that Bovis will come to the stock market with an overall land bank of 21,700 plots, enough for 8.9 years' requirements.

Analysts were more taken with its strategic land bank, which has 8,400 plots with planning consent. On last year's sales levels, this would last almost 3.5 years. The company concentrates on smaller homes,

with just under half its portfolio three bedrooms or under. These are spread around Britain, but avoiding the South East, and have seen their value rise in line with inflation over the past year. The company sold 2,460 homes last year, generating profit of £29.4 million on sales of £267 million.

P&O shares, which have been climbing from 580p since the demerger began to emerge in the City, jumped by 20p to 741p yesterday.

The company awaits a decision from the Department of Trade and Industry on the proposed merger of its cross-Channel ferry operations with those of Stena.

## Kingfisher holds back on takeover

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

KINGFISHER has suspended talks about taking a controlling interest in BUT, the French electricals and furniture retailer, apparently because of the UK company's concern about the state of the French economy.

The company said yesterday that discussions with Michel Venturini, managing director of BUT and owner of 30 per cent of the shares, have been deferred. Kingfisher, which already owns 26 per cent of BUT, was expected to pay up to £225 million for the

Venturini family stake. It retains an option to buy, but a deal now looks less likely.

Kingfisher, which owns B&Q, Woolworth, Comet, and Superdrug in the UK and Darty, the French electricals retailer, said in July that it was considering buying the Venturini family shares and bidding for the remaining 44 per cent of the company. Kingfisher insisted that it would not pay more than £130 (£31.40) a share.

Kingfisher shares closed up 25p at 857.5p.

## Leslau to quit board

BY JASON NISSE

NICK LESLAU, who stood down last month as chief executive of Burford, the property company he founded, is expected to resign from the group's board in the new year.

The move is to avoid conflicts of interest with Prestbury Leisure, the small AIM company that he is in talks with to turn into his new property venture. Shares in Prestbury were suspended at 94p yesterday, having soared 147 per cent in

29 minutes of trading. A number of City dealers were sitting on substantial potential profits having bought more than 1.7 million shares between Wednesday and Friday.

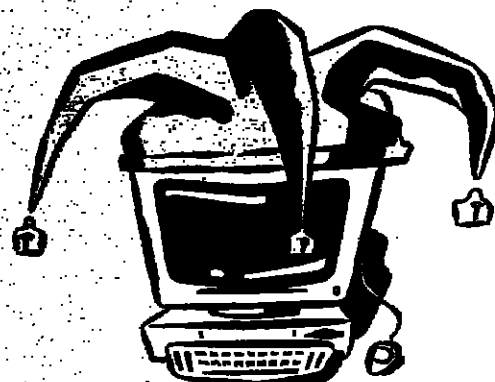
Neither Michael Edelson, the Manchester United director who runs Prestbury, nor Apex Partners, the group's financial advisers, knew of anyone having inside knowledge of the potential deal.

Mr Leslau declined to comment about the possibility of taking control of Prestbury. However, it is understood that he is preparing to resign from Burford to avoid any potential conflicts of interest with Prestbury. Nigel Wray, chairman of Burford and Mr Leslau's long-time business partner, is expected to be an investor in Prestbury but is unlikely to join the board.

Market photograph, page 30

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Mercedes-Benz







# Investor pressure forces BAT to reach for greater heights

During the past two years, the calls for BAT to hivel off its financial services division have become ever louder. The City has become obsessed with finding suitable partners, and the subject has dominated every analysts' briefing.

Until last weekend, General Accident and Guardian were regarded as possible partners. BAT's flirtation with Commercial Union, which might have created a £12.5 billion joint venture, was broken off last year. Many still believed talks between the two could be resumed.

Globally, insurers are getting bigger and business is becoming concentrated in fewer hands. This puts pressure on middle-sized companies which are too big to exit out a living from niche business but too small to compete head on with the likes of Allianz of Germany, Generali of Italy, and the big US insurers.

The UK's biggest financial services companies are now both banks and insurers. Both Prudential and Standard Life are massive forces in the life and pensions market but also have their own banking operations.

The pressure for change at BAT has come from investors who had begun to tire of the shares' lacklustre performance and have seen how BAT's rivals are growing larger and stronger by the day.

Institutions had identified two areas of serious weakness — the liabilities from ongoing tobacco litigation in the United States, which dragged the share price down, and Eagle Star, the troublesome financial services company which was in need of radical restructuring.

Analysts suggested that if the tobacco business was hived off from financial services the latter could attract a much higher rating — closer to that of the insurance sector.

BAT has one of the largest insurance businesses in the world and the proposed £20 billion to £22 billion merger with Zurich Group would create a combine second only to Allianz of Germany.

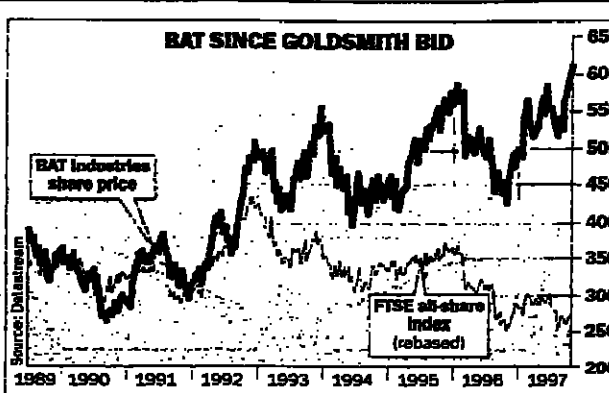
BAT's financial services division is made up of four different businesses: the troubled Eagle Star, which sells general and life insurance; Allied Dunbar, the much more stable life and pensions company; Farmers

WERE he still alive, Sir James Goldsmith could be forgiven a touch of triumphalism. The proposal that he — with Kerry Packer and Lord Rothschild — put forward when their Haylake consortium made its ill-fated £13.5 billion bid for BAT Industries in July 1994, has been followed to the letter. The three said then that the conglomerate, which in those days also had paper and retailing interests, needed "unbundling" into its constituent parts.

If BAT's negotiations with Zurich succeed and tobacco is demerged from financial services the process will be complete. The break-up started in the midst of Haylake's bid with the \$1.1 billion (£680 million) sale of the Marshall Fields store chain in the

US. BAT has sold off Saks Fifth Avenue, the luxury stores group, and demerged Argos, the catalogue retailer, and Wiggins Teape Appleton (now Arjo Wiggins), the paper maker. But shareholders would have done better if Haylake's offer had gone through. Accepting the offer and investing the £13.5 billion in a FTSE 100 Index fund, shareholders would be sitting on a pot worth nearly £32 billion. As it was, legal actions by BAT blocked the deal, and the combined value of BAT yesterday, added to Argos and Arjo in which BAT investors were given shares, is less than £23 billion.

JASON NISSÉ



Group, the US insurance division; and Thredneedle, the asset management house. Eagle Star had been severely damaged by its exposure to mortgage indemnity insurance in the 1980s, and is the most volatile of BAT's financial services earnings.

The City was growing restless as it waited for BAT to sort out the financial services division: virtually all the group's acquisitions since 1989 have been on the tobacco side.

Unlike the most recent merger of large UK composite insurers — that of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance — the prospective deal with Zurich Group is not about cost cutting but growth and gaining critical mass in international markets.

There is very little overlap:

Zurich has just a 5 per cent share of the UK insurance market. The merger would give Zurich a door into the insurance markets of the US, a region in which it is keen to expand. Farmers is the third largest personal lines insurer in the US and could provide a useful distribution route for Zurich's existing products.

For BAT Industries, the deal would address the demands of the City and unlock the value of the insurance businesses without being held back by fears over the liabilities of the tobacco division.

BAT Industries made profits of £800 million in the first half of 1997 from its tobacco operations, while financial services produced profits of £593 million.

The insurance operations

accounted for around 40 per cent of BAT's 1996 pre-tax profit of £2.5 billion.

Zurich already owns Kemper Corp, the fund manager, and in June bought Scudder, Stevens & Clark, the asset management firm, with the intention of putting the two together and creating one of the top ten mutual fund companies in the US.

That the proposed merger was confirmed on the same day as Generali of Italy launched a bid for AGF of France highlights the rapid consolidation of the insurance sector. Analysts said the two deals will increase pressure on insurers both in the UK and Europe to push through further deals. One commented: "There will be a lot of serious talking going on in the board-

rooms of insurance companies this week. Those who had unsuccessful discussions with BAT will be asking themselves where they went wrong. The number of possible partners is shrinking, and anyone wanting a global presence does not want to be left behind."

While disappointed suitors mull over the wisdom of launching a counter-bid or rival merger, there are still regulatory hurdles for the Zurich-BAT team to overcome.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission are, however, not expected to halt the deal. More time consuming will be the court hearings that will have to take place in the US before the merger is confirmed. This, according to insiders, could

take until April next year. A preliminary list of board members has already been drawn up, according to company sources, and will be released if the deal is finalised. The future role of Martin Broughton was not mentioned yesterday by BAT's official statement. However, he is likely to stick with the tobacco side rather than play second fiddle to Zurich's Rolf Huppi, who would be chairman and chief executive of the new merged company, which will have its headquarters in Zurich. One insider remarked: "Martin is a tobacco man, whereas Sandy Leitch (chief executive of British American Financial Services) is more of an insurance man."

However, the question still remains: why did BAT not take the option that the City really wanted, and merge with another composite in a similar deal to the Royal and Sun Alliance combination? Though the shares soared yesterday, some analysts believe that, once the euphoria has subsided and the City has had time to digest the news, it may give the stock less support.

Nevertheless, institutional investors are far less suspicious of deals between fellow insurers than they are of cross-industry mergers, for example when banks attempt to become bancassurers.

If the merger goes ahead, the new financial services company will certainly have the size and strength of balance sheet to pursue other small insurers in its quest for market dominance. The City certainly has one thing right — the continuation of the deal is likely to be a turning point in the fortunes of BAT and of its fellow insurers in the UK and Europe.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



Lord Rothschild, left, with Sir James Goldsmith, centre, and Kerry Packer at the time of their bid for BAT Industries

## Return to roots carries uncertainties



Lucky Strike: brand leader

BAT Industries started life as a tobacco company and few investors will question its decision to return to its roots through a demerger. BAT's tobacco division, which sells Lucky Strike, Star Express, 555, Benson & Hedges, and John Player worldwide, still provides the core of the business. Last year tobacco yielded £1.63 billion of the £2.45 billion total profits.

But the uncertain future for tobacco in a more health-conscious age, and the litigation battles in the US, have been at the root of the company's poor share price performance over the past few years. While investors are looking forward to a substantial re-rating of BAT's financial services arm, tobacco analysts were quick to point out that the argument cuts both ways. The presence of investors more interested in BAT as a

financial services stock has acted as much of a drag on the tobacco side. A pure tobacco stock, the argument runs, would enjoy a substantial re-rating as it became more transparent and attracted fewer risk-averse investors.

The bulls in the market claim that BAT's US subsidiary, Brown & Williamson, is effectively valued at zero in BAT's recent share price, in spite of profits of around \$600 million a year. The optimists argue that if the tobacco settlement deal is concluded in the US, Brown & Williamson should still be able to turn in profits of around \$500 million and continue to provide cash for investment in emerging markets.

Not everyone in the City is convinced that the future of the tobacco business is quite as straightforward. There is still uncertainty about the

\$370 billion deal struck earlier this year between the US tobacco companies and anti-tobacco litigants. Recent signs have been promising, with the tobacco companies agreeing a separate \$11 billion deal in August with the State of Florida — one of the most active anti-smoking authorities — which largely follows the terms set down in the overall deal. But to become legislation, the deal needs to clear Congress where it could still face opposition.

Even if the agreement is cleared it could prove harder to fund than some optimistic estimates have made apparent. BAT is obliged to pay \$1.7 billion upfront, which analysts say will swallow some of its fabled cashflow. BAT will also need to fund rising payments in the future and it is not clear how much will be recouped by price rises.

Analysts believe the demerger will bring few financial benefits and may even add some handicaps if the company's debt division goes against the tobacco division. Much of the debt actually derives from the life assurance arm, but analysts predict the rump BAT will be left bearing about 50 per cent of group borrowings.

But demerger will certainly ensure the tobacco business enjoys improved management time and leave it free to continue with its expansion strategy. BAT recently splashed out \$1.7 billion to take control of Cigarera La Moderna in Mexico. The company is expected to continue its push into new markets, Turkey and Egypt are seen as high on its target list, but it may also turn its attention to some more

mature markets, such as France, where it currently has only a limited presence.

There is also a heavy presumption that BAT will finally re-establish itself in the UK, ending its century-long exile. Gallaher, which has the UK rights to the Benson & Hedges brand, is the favoured target and Gallaher shares jumped 11 per cent yesterday. But there is just as much brand synergy with Imperial Tobacco, which controls the John Player and Wills brands.

To ensure an improved rating BAT could move its listing to the US. But with 90 per cent of shareholders based in the UK this could prove difficult. Instead, it is likely to receive a warm welcome on the UK stock market as the third tobacco stock alongside Imperial and Gallaher.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

## In a spin

THE place to be today will be The Royal School at Haslemere in Surrey. The top girls' educational establishment is attempting to dissipate the whiff of scandal after the sacking in March of headmaster Colin Brooks by hosting a conference titled "Outlook '97" — for girls with a sense of direction.

According to Jackie Kingsley, who hosts the splendid title of Interregnum Head, the guest of honour will be Nicola Foulston, an Old Girl who has gone on to become chief executive

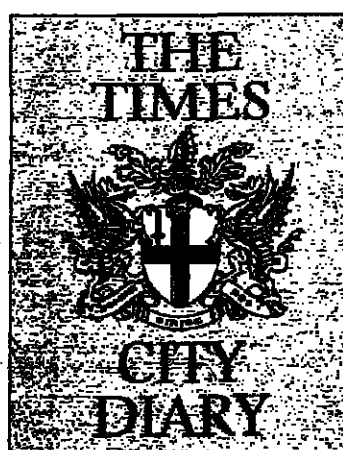
of Brands Hatch Leisure and was recently voted Businesswoman of the Year. She will be backed up by other high-flying former pupils including Pamela Marshall of the Investor Compensation Scheme and Drusilla Beyfus, a magazine editor.

But if these workshops are a little quiet, blame should be placed at the feet of one Lisa Anson, the Radio One presenter and another Old Girl. Royal School girls have been told to stop applying to attend Ms Anson's oversubscribed session. "It seems they all want to be disc jockeys," an indignant bluestocking tells me.

● **HOW does he do it?** Despite the continuous clogging of dear old Reed International, Nigel Stapleton still clings on to a senior post. I believe I have learnt the secret of why Stapleton thrives in an environment which proved not to the liking of Sir Peter Davis, who fled to become the man from the Pru. Stapleton's wife is Dutch. This may give him an insight into the mentality, though the language is still pretty impenetrable.

### Cornered

MORE news reaches me about the Italian police's attempt to control the hooligan element which is spoiling



our national game. As reported in this paper yesterday, riot police detained the Chancellor's young advisers Ed Balls and Charlie Whelan, along with six political hacks, on the terraces at Rome's Olympic Stadium, while Gordon Brown and Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General, enjoyed the hospitality of the Italian Finance Minister, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, in the VIP enclosure.

The story, though, gets worse. Apparently the Chancellor's party was due to retire to Harry's Bar after the match for some light refreshment. A minibus was laid on for the trip and, though the match ended at 10.45pm, Messrs Brown and Robinson were waiting in the van for the Balls, Whelan and co until after midnight. They retired to the hotel, only to find

the bar was closed, so Robinson got on the mobile phone to Harry's, and reconfirmed the reservation. The journalists, I here, paid for themselves. I presume the puritan Brown, Robinson and co did likewise.

### City steak

IN A scene in the occasionally witty movie *The American President*, Michael J. Fox (playing a presidential aide), slams down the phone on a truculent member of Congress and declares he's going "to Sam & Harry's and order a big steak".

Sam & Harry's, purveyor of steaks to wealthy Washingtonians, is now preparing an assault on London. Michael Sternberg and Larry Work, the restaurant's high-profile owners, have appointed property agent Shelley Sander to find them up to 10,000 sq ft in Mayfair, Belgraveia or Chelsea.

So next time Bill Clinton pops over, he can enjoy his love-in with Tony Blair on more familiar territory than Le Pont de la Tour.

### Bull market

EVER wonder what happened to the memorably named Cedric Scroggs, chief executive of Fisons until he was booted out four years ago? Well he is up to his armpits in bull semen as deputy chairman of Genus, the cattle breeding firm that has attracted an opportunistic offer from Alchemy

Partners. Jon Moulton's new venture capital outfit. I can only apologise for the analogy, but this is how Genus's "technicians" go about the cow insemination business. Well, it would make an interesting mime on *What's My Line*.

Mr Moulton cleverly spotted that Genus shares were changing hands at only a fraction of their true value via the company's clumsy twice-yearly share trading mechanism. Alchemy's chances of success still look slim. Genus, which used to be part of the Milk Marketing Board, is owned by the 29,000 dairy farmers who are also its main customers.

JASON NISSÉ



Nicola Foulston will be guest of honour at the school conference

### MARKETING

## The start of a brand new world

Bob Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, must have been delighted last week when Baroness Thatcher called BAT's decision to drop the Union Jack "terrible, terrible, absolutely terrible".

Lady Thatcher has become an icon of the Eighties and her disapproval shows that BA has rid itself of its Eighties, gung-ho "Britain is best and to hell with the rest" image. The airline is spending £50 million on a brand revamp that will replace the Union Jack tail fins with 50 logos from around the world.

Bob Ayling explains his reasoning in a new book *Brand Warriors*, which goes on sale next Monday. Edited by Fiona Gilmore, a founding partner of brand consultancy Springpoint, it includes essays by Archie Norman of Asda, Robert Holloway of Levi Strauss,

Companies will have to fight harder, yet budgets are being cut.

The biggest external threat is probably the supermarket. "Supermarkets will become king. We have already seen them go into clothes, financial services, pharmacies, and there is no barrier to stop them going into anything they want. Whoever has the best relationship with the customer will come out on top."

In order to build that relationship, Fiona Gilmore believes, companies are going to have to look beyond conventional means of marketing. The fragmentation of media will make it harder for them to reach consumers through television and press and blowing the budget on a showy TV commercial will not be an option. As advertising budgets are cut, more will be spent on below-the-line marketing.

Companies will have to become more cost-effective in their narrow communication. "So does this mean that direct marketing, or junk mail, will become more widespread? "Direct mail has such a terrible image that it will remain a damaged vehicle for a very long time." So what will be the marketing medium of the millennium? Gilmore thinks we are likely to see more idiosyncratic campaigns that stand out and capture the public's imagination. She cites Mazda's decision to commission a double concerto based on the 1945 Hiroshima bomb blast.

As well as the use of quirky marketing campaigns, she tips the launch of "useful brands". She uses the example of WH Smith, which launched a £15 million initiative to buy books for schools last month. "They want people to grow up thinking WH Smith is a useful brand."

Her final tip for companies in the 21st century is to be aware of the public's desire for businesses to be more ethical and compassionate. Consumers will be more attracted to companies that donate money to worthy causes than those that care only about the shareholders' dividend. *Brand Warriors* is published by HarperCollins and goes on sale next Monday.



ROS SNOWDON

## OVER 'ERE SON, ON ME 'EAD.

bench n. 1 prolonged and frustrating period of inactivity as a result of failing to make first team 2 used in a collective sense to refer to the judges or magistrates in a court.

encroachment n. 1 "Oi ref! They're never ten yards!" (see walls at free kicks) 2 unlawfully entering upon another's rights or possessions.

contract n. 1 piece of paper that means very little to certain footballers and their agents 2 a legally binding agreement.

negative clearance n. 1 maximum distance, minimum direction, just hoof it anywhere (see traditional English centreback) 2 Procedure whereby parties to an agreement seek a declaration that does not come within the scope of the Treaty of Rome's anti-competition laws.

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"Right. Let's get these merger talks off on the right footing..."











# Pride of the prairies

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet is returning to Britain for the first time in 15 years. Debra Craine reports

Winnipeg is a most unlikely place to find a busy international ballet company. Located bang in the middle of the North American continent, the city sits on the edge of the great Canadian prairies, a thousand miles and more from the metropolitan centres of culture. And its isolation isn't merely geographical. The long brutal winters impose their own kind of seclusion, months when the cosy delights of hearth and home can be far more appealing than a night out at the theatre.

Yet Winnipeg is where two dance teachers from Leeds decided — in the summer of 1938 — to start a ballet school and, shortly thereafter, a company. It was the tail end of the Depression and barely a year before the Second World War, not the most auspicious of times to launch any kind of artistic enterprise. Gweneth Lloyd and Betty Farrally could not have imagined how far their dream would take them. In 1939 they gave their first professional performance; in 1949 their Winnipeg Ballet Club became Canada's first professional ballet company; in 1953 the Winnipeg Ballet Club became the first royal ballet company in the Commonwealth; in 1954 the Royal Winnipeg Ballet completed its first international tour.

It has been touring ever since, to more than 500 cities around the world, notching up several impressive statistics along the way: first Western ballet company to tour the Soviet Union; first Western company to visit Castro's Cuba. As North America's most-travelled troupe, they

spend more than half their life on the road, a plucky band of 26 dancers who have survived one financial hardship after another, one artistic crisis after another, taking ballet to places it has never been before.

This week the Royal Winnipeg Ballet returns to Britain for the first time in 15 years. A season at London's Peacock Theatre, which opens tonight, exemplifies the company's spirit. The repertoire is brave and varied, with two works by Canadian choreographers unknown on this side of the Atlantic — Mark Godden's *Miroirs* and Joe Laughlin's *L'Étiquette* — set against some of the best in American choreography, from Tudor (*The Leaves Are Falling*) to Balanchine (*Concerto Barocco*, *Ballet Delle Ragazze*) to Robbins (*Other Dances*). When the company arrives in Edinburgh next week it will bring its full-length *Giselle*.

"Our repertoire shows the kind of maturity that this company has achieved," says the artistic director, André Lewis. "We are not relying on familiar repertoire; we are showing that we can do both classics and contemporary."

If there is one thing Lewis believes in, it is the power of ballet to speak to a contemporary audience. "For too long ballet directors have felt that ballet is too old-fashioned. They tried to invent a new language. I feel the language is still there, and it's still important. It's how you use it that matters. Our language is ballet, and it is a beautiful language, which is why I have brought in more pointe shoe ballets."



Canadian content: Mark Godden's *Miroirs*, one of the works to be performed by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet tonight

Winnipeg's greatest asset is its star ballerina, Evelyn Hart. At 41 she continues to be one of the world's leading dancers, admired in America and idolised in Japan. In Britain, however, she is a well-kept secret. Those lucky enough to have seen her guest with Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet in the 1984-85 season will never forget the wildness of her dancing. Wisely, the Winnipeg company has cast her in all its performances of *Other*

*Dances*, as well as in both *Giselle* and *The Leaves Are Falling*, roles ideally suited to her lush, romantic style. Despite the international acclaim that has followed her everywhere she goes, Hart has remained loyal to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet throughout her 21-year career. "Winnipeg has provided the kind of support she would not have got in other bigger companies," Lewis explains. "Hers is a unique talent that needs

careful support to bloom." For unique read difficult: Hart's obsessiveness as a performer exacts a heavy price in her relationships with others. Yet it is her overpowering commitment to dance that fuels her superb artistry. Hart may be demanding, but she appreciates the lengths to which the company has gone to accommodate her needs. In this respect, at least, small is better. "When a ballerina is with a

big company she has the whole weight of that company upon her, the whole machine, the whole status," Hart says. "But I cannot be squashed into a mould like that. I need the freedom to develop individually. And the Royal Winnipeg Ballet gave me the space to do it my own way."

● The Royal Winnipeg Ballet is at the Peacock Theatre (0171-314 8800) until Saturday, and at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre (0131-529 6000) from Oct 21-25

## Fat knight too thinly spread

Vaughan Williams's Falstaff opera is more honoured in word than in performance. The composer's supporters speak lovingly of it, but chances to hear it are rare. All praise, then, to Richard Hickox and the Northern Sinfonia for giving it a play in the Barbican's *Vision of Albion* series.

Albion is omnipresent, great green swaths of it, in the score. VW raided the treasury of native folk song, culminating in *Greensleeves*, which Mistress Ford takes up during Falstaff's calamitous wooing of her. His own libretto rarely strays from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

It is all exceptionally English — and nothing wrong with that — but the spirit of Falstaff himself comes across only intermittently. This is not the fault of Donald Maxwell, long acquainted with the fat knight in Verdi's version. His presence is commanding and his baritone roared above the other soloists. But Vaughan Williams's Falstaff, at least in concert performance, lacks wit and, more crucially, gusto. Too often he disappears amid an overcrowded cast.

Boito did some clever personified trimming for Verdi. Vaughan Williams leaves practically everyone in. There is insufficient time for charac-

ters to become established. The Wives at least have a chance to make their mark, led by Pamela Helen Stephen's poised Mistress Ford and Anne Marie Owens's Mistress Quickly. Nancy Argenta, a replacement for Rebecca Evans as Anne, sounded miscast, the voice too heavy and mature for Windsor's best teenage date.

By contrast, Mark Padmore was an ideal Fenton, gracefully handling the score's warmest music. Matthew Best, shortly to take over the title role of the Dutchman at the ENO, was a powerfully angry Ford.

The chorus eventually achieves prominence in the last two acts and the Joyful Company of Singers made the most of it. Richard Hickox conducted with commitment and vigour, but a lighter touch would have helped. Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor* remains runner-up to Verdi in the Falstaff stakes. Perhaps someone will now give that an airing.

JOHN HIGGINS

### CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

SCHUBERT'S STRING QUARTET IN D MINOR (*Death and the Maiden*), D810

Reviewed by Stephen Johnson

SCHUBERT didn't actually call his D minor String Quartet *Death and the Maiden*. The nickname grew because the second movement is a set of variations on a theme derived from Schubert's song *Der Tod und das Mädchen*. But it is a good title for the quartet as a whole. At the very beginning, a stark, arresting gesture is followed by a quiet, almost pleading response. It is tempting to hear this as the "announcement of death," followed by the awe-struck human response. Similar oppositions abound in all four movements.

Among the 36 recordings currently available there are many with good things to offer and few absolute stinkers. One recording should come with a special caveat however: the version for string orchestra by I Musici de Montreal conducted by Yuli Turovsky (Chandos). It claims to be the orchestration by Mahler, but it's nothing of the sort — the little Mahler did to Schubert's original is completely reworked. In any case it's a generally ghastly, histrionic performance.

The relatively modern versions that stand out are those by the Lindsay, the Prazak

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 496; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Offenbach's operettas



(Praga), the Vienna Philharmonic (Decca), the earlier Melos (DG), and the earlier Amadeus (also DG). There are three very interesting historical mono recordings from the Hollywood (Testament), Busch (EMI and Pearl) and the Capet (Biddulph) quartets. The latter, recorded in 1927/8, is a specialist collector's item, but the other two should be rewarding to anyone today.

Fine as the older Melos and Amadeus recordings are, there are problems. Not everyone likes the Amadeus's sweet, rounded vibrato. The Melos on the other hand have a tendency to pull emotional punches, most devastatingly at the climax of the second movement (which Schubert marks *ff*). The Prazak are more consistently convincing, but sound a trifle cold beside the Vienna Philharmonic Quartet, and they can't ultimately match the elemental passion, tenderness and bold drama of the Lindsay (ASV CDDCA 560, £12.99) — my final recommendation.

## Objects of Desire

THE MODERN STILL LIFE

October 9, 1997-January 4, 1998 at the Hayward Gallery

### An exclusive reader evening

Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive private view of the first comprehensive exhibition to celebrate and explore the 20th-century still life.

The evening on November 6, 1997, from 6.30-8.30pm, includes a guided tour of the exhibition and an informal reception with wine in the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank, London.

The exhibition, created by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, brings together over 160 modern masterpieces from collections worldwide. Highlights include Marcel Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel*, Man Ray's spike-covered iron, *Gift*, Matisse's *Goldfish and Palette*, Meret Oppenheim's fur-covered teacup and saucer, *Object*, a white *Lobster Telephone* by Salvador Dalí, René Magritte's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Jasper Johns's *Flag*, and *Brillo Boxes* by Andy Warhol.

From Cézanne to Koons, this exhibition explores the ways in which exceptional artists and exceptional works have transformed the vision and meaning of the still life in the modern age.



Tickets: £12 (includes entrance to the exhibition, guided tour and drinks). Call the Hayward Gallery box office on 0171-960 4242. (Tickets must be purchased in advance. There is a £1 charge for telephone bookings for handling and postage.)

Objects of Desire: the Modern Still Life is organised under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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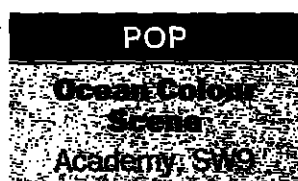
CHANGING TIMES

## Sunday on Saturday

The buzz in Brixton on Saturday night was not just about Ocean Colour Scene. It had quite a lot to do with England's Roman conquerors on the football pitch. Fans themselves, OCS delayed their appearance until the final whistle, and non-believers must have been bemused as the venue became swollen with latecomers, recently unglued from TV screens in nearby pubs.

It seemed at first that the band would make it a night of double celebration. They had no shortage of reasons of their own, like an instant No 1 album of late with *Marchin' Already*, the sequel to the million-selling *Moseley Shoals*. From that new set, *Better Day* was fervently cheered and *Travellers Tune* included a typically enthusiastic assist from the veteran P.P. Arnold, whose soulful and often undervalued larynx the band have taken to exercising.

If Ocean Colour Scene had a fiver for every pot-shot at their unashamed inheritance of the shaggy-rock sounds and looks



of the Traffic generation, they would soon start showing up in those league tables of Rich Brits. But they have both a likeable insouciance for such observations and an admirable focus on creating rock with a contemporary energy. If that means fuelling up at the pumps of their progressive predecessors, the end results are still less derivative than those of many contemporaries.

A Moseley Shoals trio of

Lining Your Pockets, *The Circle* and *40 Past Midnight* seemed to let both band and crowd open up and put the foot down, but OCS moved into fifth gear only occasionally. Everyone threw back their heads and roared for *The Riverboat Song* and *The Day We Caught The Train*, and vocalist Simon Fowler returned for an effective solo acoustic performance of *Foxy's Folk Faced*, dedicated to fellow traveller Paul Weller. But as their own full-time whistle blew, guitarist Steve Cradock had a parting dig about the "Sunday night" feel of an event that never quite turned into the biggest party of the 1997-98 season to date.

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Theatre for the Nation



# Siren calls from a seductive age

Richard Cork basks in the sensual delights to be found in a new Tate Gallery show of Rossetti, Burne-Jones, Watts and the other Symbolists

Extravagant coils of hair threaten to engulf everyone who enters the Tate Gallery's new exhibition. The first room is dominated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti's hypnotic painting of *Lady Lilith*, a blonched siren bent on combing her luxuriant auburn tresses until they shimmer. At once beguiling and predatory, she gazes into a mirror and exposes one shoulder with shameless provocation. Her full, blood-red lips gleam. She is meant to be irresistible, and a scarlet ribbon trails wantonly from her wrist like an erotic challenge.

When Rossetti began painting this *femme fatale* in 1864, he was associated in the public mind with the Pre-Raphaelites. He had, after all, been a founding member of the Brotherhood 16 years earlier. The truth, though, points in

a very different direction. Rossetti never shared the passion for "truth to nature" insisted on by his fellow brethren. Millais and Holman Hunt. Infatuated with early Italian art and poetry, he escaped as soon as possible to a world of medieval fantasy. Fueled by drugs and a succession of "summers" who posed in his studio, he idolised languorous women as fervently as Dante adored Beatrice. Both ending and perilous, they took Rossetti's increasingly heavy art a long way from its earnest Pre-Raphaelite origins.

As the Tate's survey makes clear, his later work belongs more convincingly to the Symbolist movement which flourished on the Continent. For Rossetti's pursuit of his ideal led him into a strange psychological realm. Sex and death intermingled there in a perfumed cocktail.

The more the show proceeds, the darker its mood becomes. Rossetti's *Dantis Amor* may strike an openly religious note, with its angel suspended on a flat, heraldic, star-spattered ground. But a conventional belief in God seems far removed from the full-blown voluptuousness of his *Proserpina*, as ripe as the bitten fruit whose glistening flesh she suggestively holds up for inspection.

By the time Rossetti produced his monumental *Astarte Syriaca* in the late 1870s, he had surrendered completely to his overriding obsession. The painting began as a homage to his mistress Jane Morris, whose infidelity caused her husband William so much pain. But she ends up as a Syrian love-goddess, capable of enslaving and even sacrificing anyone foolish enough to succumb to her allure.

At this point, Rossetti's friend Edward Burne-Jones had joined him on the ceaseless, yearning quest. He seems more pessimistic, showing three naked men bound forlornly to a Wheel of Fortune controlled by an implacable female. The male suitors in Burne-Jones's work often appear futile, and his women bloodless compared with Rossetti's luscious idols. But when Burne-Jones painted *King Cophetua and the Beggar Maid* the object of the monarch's devotion turns out to be a wan, near-consumptive waif. Like so many of Burne-Jones's men, the gloomy Cophetua seems unable to galvanise himself and approach her. Instead, he stares longingly from a respectful distance.

In order to establish their kinship with Symbolism abroad, the same room also displays paintings by Gustav Klimt, Gustave Moreau and Pierre Puvis de Chavannes. Klimt's *Idyll* is more robust than Burne-Jones's canvases. Muscular male nudes of Michelangelo proportions flank a central image of a woman with children, and Klimt ensures that the overall mood is unashamedly sultry.

You won't find a single picture of Burne-Jones that could not be displayed at Sunday School, wrote the Norwegian sculptor, Gustav Vigeland in 1901. This prissy countess against him, especially at the Tate where *Love Among the Ruins* is hung next to Moreau's brazenly exotic painting of *Oedipus*.

George Frederic Watts, the other British painter highlighted in the show, is a

revelation. Neglected and even mocked for much of the present century, he is ripe for reassessment. I found him more impressive here than either Burne-Jones or Rossetti. His imagination is possessed by doom, and responds best to the most fantastic subjects.

He shows Paola and Francesca trapped in a fatal whirlwind, and laboured for nearly a decade on a haunted painting called *Chaos*. Presented to the Tate by the artist in 1897, this apocalyptic canvas has now been restored and immediately establishes itself as a key British painting of the period. Anticipating science-fiction cinema in its wide-screen vision of turbulence in the cosmos, *Chaos* proves that Watts, at his best, does not deserve to be accused of Victorian vapidity.

The wildness of Watts's imagination grows more dramatic still in the room devoted to the Symbolist landscape. Millais's large painting of *Dry-drenched Furze* is included here, but serves only to prove how tame he had become in the late 1880s. Watts, by contrast, left naturalism far behind. The title of his *Sunset on the Alps* sounds conventional enough, but the image itself is far removed from picturesque prettiness. The sky over the mountain boils with orange energy and threatens to erupt into a full-blown phantasmagoric nightmare. As for his nearby *After the Deluge: The Forty-First Day*, it bombards the retina with a ferocious sun-burst made even more compelling by his bold, summarising brushwork.

In terms of his mark-making, indebted above all to the looseness of late Titian, Watts is more rewarding than either Rossetti or Burne-Jones. The full extent of his vision is disclosed in Room 8, aptly entitled *The Climax*. It ought to be dominated by Lord Leighton's colossal painting *And the Sea Gave up the Dead that Were in it*. But he fails to handle his awesome subject with sufficient vivacity. Leighton's brushwork is too careful and prissy to match his revelatory theme, whereas Watts invests a tall canvas called *She Shall Be Called Woman* with the right amount of fervour. His broken pigment takes on an unfettered life of its own as it drifts, with infinite ambiguity, around the emergent figure.

To judge by his other looming allegories on view here, ranging from the Venetian splendour of *Time, Death and*



Revelatory image: *She Shall Be Called Woman* (1875-92) by George Frederic Watts

Judgement to the funeral finality of *Sic Transit*, a retrospective survey of Watts's achievement is long overdue.

• The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Watts at the Tate (0171-887 8000) opens on Thursday and continues until Jan 4, sponsored by Prudential.  
• In Metro this Saturday: Lynne Truss on the legacy of Watts

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT WOULD be easy, but unfair, to say that the most interesting thing about Christopher Sturgess-Lief is his story rather than his art. The story goes that this self-taught artist began exhibiting on the railings alongside Hyde Park around 1960, when he was 25. Here he was noticed by Victor Musgrave, who was then running the avant-garde Gallery One and offered him his first one-man show there in 1962. His strange paintings of real-looking but disturbingly unrecognisable objects were quite unlike anyone else's. He is perhaps best described as a self-made Surrealist, liberating spectators into free association. Important critics were impressed and he turned up the next year in a mixed show.

Then nothing. He vanished completely, has not exhibited again as far as anyone knows, and was last sighted, allegedly, in Hammersmith making plaster models of house facades. All the works in this show at Julian Harnoll's Gallery come from Gallery One's old stock, and the gallery would be delighted to contact him if he is contactable. Meanwhile, the work speaks for itself: richly coloured and textured, it vibrates tantalisingly in the memory.

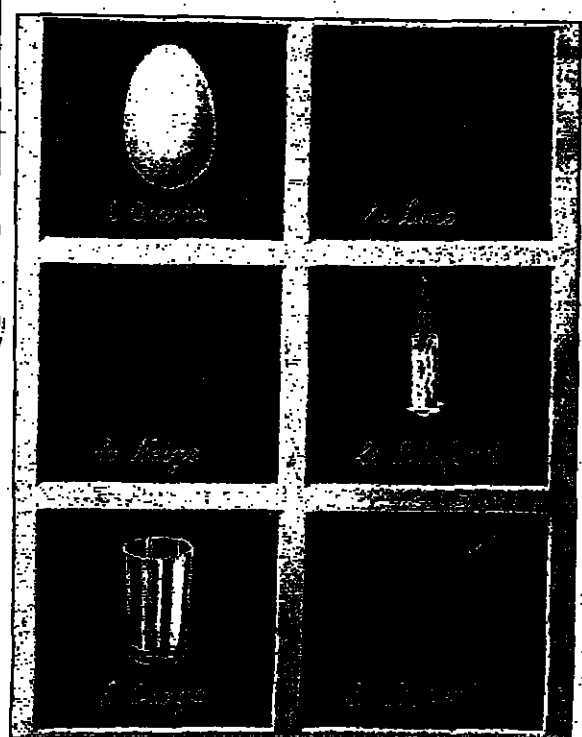
Julian Harnoll's Gallery, 14 Mason's Yard, SW1 (0171-839 3842). Mon-Fri 10am-12.30pm, 2.30-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until Saturday

□ Cedric Kennedy (1898-1968) is another, but very different, forgotten artist. He began adventuring, going straight from Rugby into the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. After three months' service he was shot down, and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner; his health throughout the rest of his life was affected. It did not stop him from attending various art schools in his twenties, ending up at the Royal Academy School under Charles Sims. The rest of his life was divided equally between teaching at a succession of boys' schools, where he endlessly recorded the boys at work with great delicacy unmarred by sentimentality, and painting landscapes during vacations.

He was apparently a purist who refused to modify the scene before him in any way in the interests of composition, so he spent a lot of time crashing through bushes and briars looking for that one position where the elements fell naturally into place. He had an extraordinary sense of light and space. The paintings are as retiring as the man himself, but radiate quiet confidence. Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 0934). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until Oct 31

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

## TEN OBJECTS OF DESIRE



Richard Cork's daily guide to the Hayward Gallery's new still lifes

■ RENE MAGRITTE: *The Interpretation of Dreams*, 1930

THE Surrealists wanted to shock us into discovering the essential strangeness of the world. And none was more subversive than Magritte. His six-part painting seems to take its cue from a school reading textbook. But the objects are betrayed by the words inscribed beneath them. The stillness of the empty glass could hardly be more opposed to the meaning of *l'orage* ("storm"). Why is the high-heeled shoe identified as "moon" and the bowler hat (a Magritte trademark) as "snow"? It all seems wilfully perverse. But the artist is warning us, in his own dry manner, never to take mere appearances for granted.

□ Objects of Desire, sponsored by BMW in association with The Times, is at the Hayward (0171-960 4242). TOMORROW: Meret Oppenheim's *Object*, 1936

6 Sadly neglected in this century, Watts is ripe for revival

# On the medieval superhighway

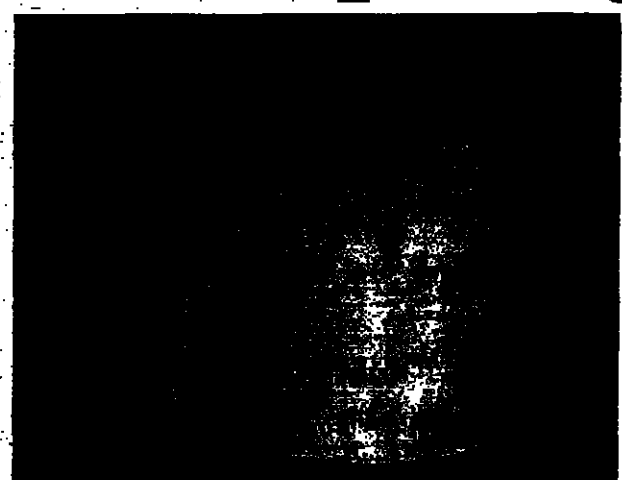
The 14th century meets the 21st on a new CD. Richard Morrison reports

Here is something strange and new. Out this week is *Red Iris*, a recording of 14th-century dances by the instrumental group Sinfonie. But this is no ordinary disc. Put it on your CD player and you do indeed here nine scintillating tracks of Tuscan *istampite*. But run it through your computer (Windows or Macintosh) and you get something quite different: a witty "CD interactive" that presents fascinating snapshots of the music and the era.

Using a mouse to move round the screen, the punter explores three luscious medieval frescoes, discovering "hot spots" which release fragments of sound or images. So 14th-century art meets 21st-century technology. More importantly, this enterprise — from the independent label

Glossa — suggests how classical musicians might exploit, rather than fear, new media. The idea comes from Stevie Wishart, founder of Sinfonie. She is a composer and performer who is as comfortable in the avant-garde and folk worlds as in the medieval. "The Middle Ages were themselves a multimedia era," she says. The written word wasn't the main means of communication. What's more, the music manuscripts use their own sort of icons — similar to computer icons — to tell the performer what to play next. We wanted the experience offered by the CD interactive to be like the process of reconstructing this music."

Of course, compared with the usual CD-ROM this hybrid medium is comparatively limited. "It's basically an audio



Back to the future: Stevie Wishart, with music, on *Red Iris*

CD," Wishart explains, "so you have to commit about 600 megabytes to sound, leaving only about 250 for the interactive part." And anyone expecting a straightforward commentary on this music — a kind of computerised sleeve-

note — may be disconcerted by Wishart's quirky, brain-teasing approach. As I navigated my way round the "hot spots", for instance, I had to think hard about why a map of Florence is suddenly overshadowed by a bombing raid

(symbolic of how time has ravaged many manuscripts), or why you sometimes hear gurgling water-pumps (these dances were first performed above a natural spring).

"Yes," Wishart agrees, "you don't get the whole picture; you get fragments, and you have to think hard. But that parallels the process of researching the Middle Ages."

Tomorrow, Sinfonie performs *Red Iris* in concert, with images from the CD interactive projected while the music is played. Soon, Wishart says, she may develop electronic "tracking" that will trigger visual images directly from her medieval fiddle or hurdy-gurdy. It sounds a bit wacky, but don't knock it. We could be looking at a prototype for the concert of the future.

• *Red Iris* is released through Harmonia Mundi on Glossa Nouvelle Vision (GCD 928701). Tomorrow's concert is at 8pm in the Union Chapel, Islington, London N1 (0171-226 1686)

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Barbican Theatre  
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RSC  
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Theatre for the Nation



Hilary Finch meets Graham Johnson, whose revolutionary Songmakers' Almanac is celebrating its 21st birthday

MALCOLM GROWTHES

## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marij Hargre

## LONDON

**ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS:** The renowned chamber orchestra conducted by its founder Sir Neville Martinz opens its new season with a world premiere of Sally Beamish's *Cello Concerto* inspired by the poetry of Ted Hughes. This is preceded by Haydn's popular *Military Symphony*, with Brahms's soaring *Symphony No 4* concluding the evening. Robert Cohen is soloist on the cello. Barbican, St. Mark, E2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**FAITH:** New Mendon Oakes play, set somewhere in the Southern Hemisphere where soldiers display a range of responses as they fight to regain an island. John Burgess directs. Royal Court Upstairs (Antisocials), West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm.

**RUSSIAN NIGHT:** A touch of Russian desert may be detected tonight as Kiev conductor Valery Gergiev takes the podium with the London Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme featuring music by two composers who both fell foul of Stalin: Dmitri Shostakovich's *Symphony No 8* is preceded by *Symphony No 3* by Sergei Lyadov, originally a pupil of Shostakovich at the Leningrad Conservatory.

## STANDING STONE

World premiere for Paul McCartney's new symphonic work. Lawrence Foster conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in a programme which also includes other works by the composer. With the Brodsky Quartet and the Michael Thompson Horn Quartet. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-689 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm. Sat, 2pm and Sat, 2pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**CANTERBURY:** The Royal Shakespeare Company's national tour visits the Canterbury Festival with Ron Daniels's production of Henry V. Marlowe Theatre, The Plains (01227 757787). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thu and Sat, 2pm.

**NOTTINGHAM:** The *Mysteries of St. Augustine*, an uncompromising tale for the latest full-cast production by the world-famous, university-known National Theatre of Brent. Usual west cast, 16-18 persons, commanded by Desmund Oliver. Donkey Playhouse Theatre, Wellington Circus (0115-941 9419). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thu and Sat, 2.30pm. Until November 1.

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre openings in London. **House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.**

**COMING UP:** Nicola Duffell plays the teacher championing a boy after a theft in a shopping mall. Comedy by James Martin Charlton, author of the excellent *Far South*. Directed by Ted Crag. Warehouse, Dugswell Rd, East Croydon (0181-650 4000). Tue, 8.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 5pm.

**HRH:** Corn Redgrave and Amanda Donohue play the Duke and Duchess of Windsor in another stage version of their domes, this time ended to the Bahamas, and no music. Simon Callow directs. Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0171-838 4401). Mon-Thu, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

**KAT AND THE KINGS:** Eubank musical set in Cape Town and red hot burlesque South Africa. A great evening out. Theatre, Albion High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed (Oct 22, Nov 5) and Sat, 4pm. Until Nov 5.

**KARA LEAP:** Most forward in the land, with Victoria Hamilton as Cordelia and Greg Hodge as Edmund in Peter Hall's new production. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-926 7616). Tonight, 7.30pm. In rep.

**LIFE SUPPORT:** Alan Bates subtly moving in Simon Gray's play about memory for mental recovery. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-926 7616). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

## NEW RELEASES

**THE GAME (18):** Sleek businessman Michael Douglas gets a shock-up. Outstanding thriller from Steven Spielberg. With Sean Penn, Deborah Kara Unger. ABC Rialto (0171-935 9772). Notting Hill Coronet (0171-727 6705). Odeon, Croydon (0181-315 4214).

**MAURICE (18):** A touching love story. Directed by James Ivory. With Ian McKellen, Hugh Grant, James Wilby. Warner (0171-737 2121). UCL (0171-2639 1000). Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

**HERCULES (U):** Greek mythology gets a modern twist. Directed by John Mankiewicz. With Eric Roberts, John Mankiewicz and Ron Harris. Odeon, Kensington (0181-315 4214). Lancelotti Square (0181-315 4215).

**MIL BY MOUTH (18):** Family crisis in a South London housing estate. A new spin on the old story. Directed by David Wilson. With Kathy Burke, Barbara (0171-438 8891). Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3233). Gaiety (0171-727 4043).

**OLIVER (U):** A touching love story. Directed by James Ivory. With Ian McKellen, Hugh Grant, James Wilby. Warner (0171-737 2121). UCL (0171-2639 1000). Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK (18):** A chilling tale of a woman who returns to her childhood home to find it haunted by a sinister presence. Directed by James Ivory. With Ian McKellen, Hugh Grant, James Wilby. Warner (0171-737 2121). UCL (0171-2639 1000). Trocadero (0171-434 0031).

## EXHIBITIONS

**JOACHIN SANTOS-SUAREZ "BOGOSNOS REFLECTIONS":** At Derby, 12 DECEMBER, ST JAMES'S LONDON SW1B. 10TH-20TH OCTOBER 1997. FROM 9.30AM TO 6.00PM.

## OPERA &amp; BALLET

**COLISEUM:** 600 SEAT ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. TROIC. THE FLYING DUTCHMAN. Sadler's Wells at the Phoenix Theatre (0171) 514 8800. Sat 10 Oct 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

## THEATRES

**ADRIAN PHILIPS:** cc (1 day) bag 34 0055420 1230. **THE DROP DEAD MUSICAL:** RUTHLESS LEISER. HENRY GOODMAN. NIGEL PLANNER. From 10pm to 10.30pm. 18 Nov. ALBERT 359 12034 4444. Preview Now.

**STEPPING OUT:** THE NEW MUSICAL. Press Night Tomorrow at 7pm. From 8pm. Mon-Sat 7.45. ALDWINCH 0171 416 0035. 0171 420 0010 (6 days) bag bag. ALAN BATES. "Magnificent performance, one of the best of his career." D. Tal.

**LIFE SUPPORT:** A new play by Simon Gray. "Entertaining, with humour." S. Tal. "HARDLY PUNISHING method and absorbing production." Ind. Eve Tues, Sat 8. Mats Wed & Sat 3.20. ALDWINCH 0171 416 0035. 0171 420 0010 (6 days) bag bag. ALAN BATES. "Magnificent performance, one of the best of his career." D. Tal.

**APOLLO 2400:** cc (1 day) bag 34 0055420 1230. **THE DROP DEAD MUSICAL:** RUTHLESS LEISER. HENRY GOODMAN. NIGEL PLANNER. From 10pm to 10.30pm. 18 Nov. ALBERT 359 12034 4444. Preview Now.

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## Readings beyond the lines

Beginning an interview with Graham Johnson can be a tricky business. He is more than likely to be distracted by a new discovery he is eager to share: a painting of Gargamel owned by Goethe which had significant repercussions on a Schubert setting, or a line in Schlegel's *Henry VI* referring to the appearance of three suns — and the burning of that image into the penultimate song of Schubert's *Winterreise*. And then the phone will ring, and Johnson will warn a young German singer never to underestimate the perils of Fauré's *La bonne chanson*, for audiences as much as for singers.

Out of precisely this eager generosity and curiosity of spirit was born the Songmakers' Almanac, a flexible ensemble devoted to the programming and presentation of song which was to have extraordinary implications for the future of the recital world, and which is now celebrating its 21st birthday in a series of recitals at the Wigmore Hall. The series focuses on the Rückblick and the Woklin — the musical past and the far-reaching influence — of Schubert. But the celebrations also inherently focus on the history and the future of the Almanac itself.

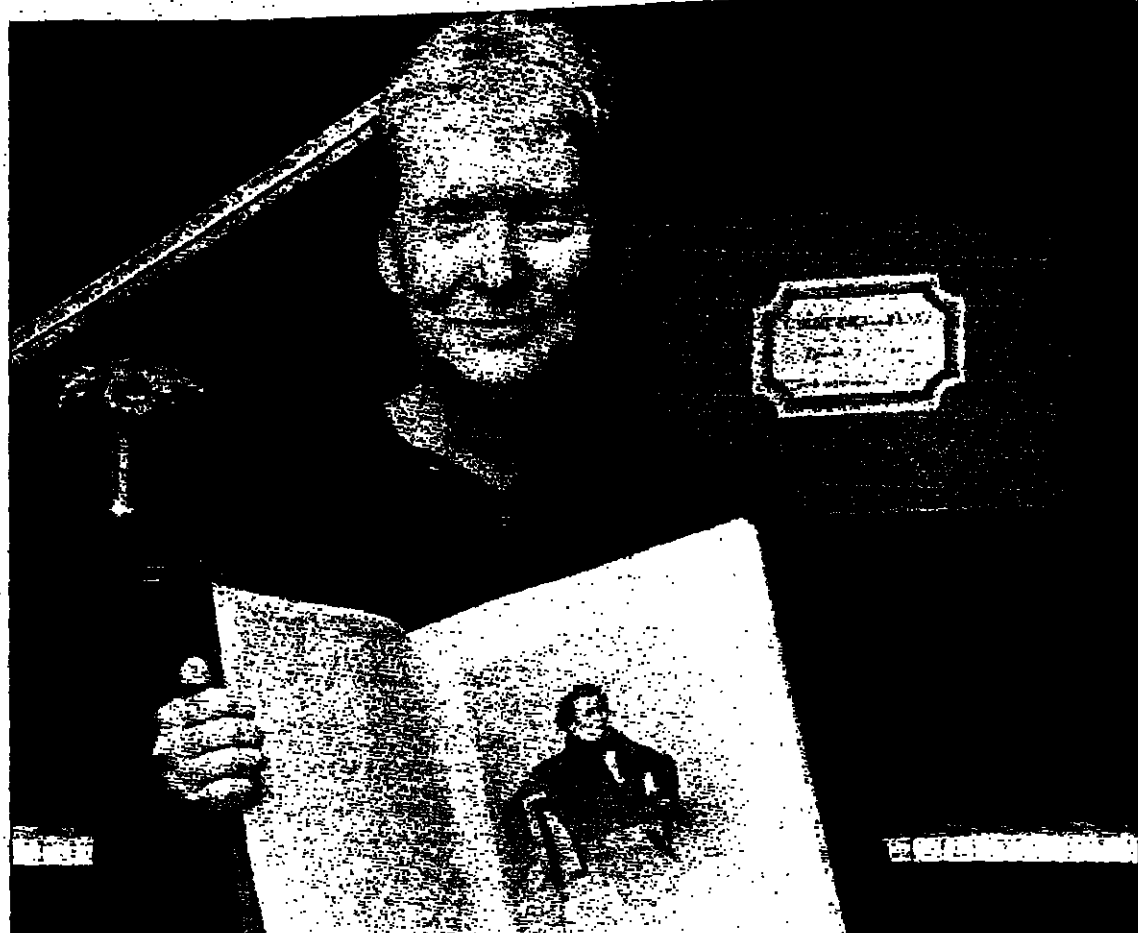
The very first page of the Almanac — a foreword, really — was turned in a 1975 Hugo Wolf recital in which Johnson featured not one but several singers and totally revised the performing order of the music. He had realised that he was having much

more fun at home imagining song recitals than he was by going to them. "Colonial people, you know" — Johnson was born and bred in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe — "have a reputation for being iconoclasts. They're brought up without the weight of tradition bearing down on them. It may be lonely, but you have no choice but to go your own way."

Soon after he arrived in England, that is exactly what he did. With the enthusiastic support of the great accompanist, Gerald Moore, Johnson launched his first Almanac on October 4, 1976, with a programme called *The Ruling Passions*, a unique fusion of eclectic and daring juxtapositions, sophisticated wit and thought-provoking cross-reference. Wolf followed Arne, Auden faced Pope, Judith Bingham's *Cocaine Lil* partnered Saint-Saëns.

The song recital would never be the same again. Words and music, songs, letters and poems, counterpointed and collided in the voices of performers who would dare their audiences to guess what might have happened if *Fiordiligi* and *Dorabella* had been Lieder singers: to immerse themselves in the life and language of Goethe and Heine; to connect the prose and the passion of Schubert and William Blake.

Johnson remembers these as halcyon days, when singers like the Almanac's founder members, Ann Murray, Felicity Lott, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Richard Jackson, trav-



"Teaching, for me, is what it's all about," Graham Johnson says. Schubert would no doubt have agreed

elled less, were confident in being the British cream of the European song world, and could enjoy true musical democracy without the need to fight for a solo career, or to be in consultation with managements about whether any given move would enhance their profile.

As the 1970s became the 1980s, Johnson's original ensemble began to spread its wings. International Songmakers and Young Songmakers were born: this latest series not only shows Johnson's unflagging invention as a programme planner, but features singers from eight countries, from Ann Murray from Ireland to Finnur Bjarnason from Iceland.

"Teaching, for me, is what it's all about," Johnson says. "A worthwhile performance will have taught you something; it will have revealed emotion and meanings, made something clearer. And verbalising this teaching is deeply necessary for the performer, as a way of growing and enriching one's own performance."

So Johnson himself continues to teach, write (his *Oxford Book of French Song* is forthcoming) and record (he continues to mastermind the Hyperion Complete Schubert Edition). Ideas, performers, audiences: none seems to be in short supply. "Yet there's a desperation about all of us in the Lieder world, you know," Johnson says. "There are sinister under-

currents: record sales are dropping, audiences getting older. As the new century progresses, Lieder will be something that happened in the century before last. Ours will become a task of desperate resuscitation. I'm quite certain that, as long as civilisation of some kind remains, there will be room for the art of a Matthias Gorne, an Anne Sofie von Otter — for the cream. But I am very concerned for the fine singers who remain outside the increasingly narrow definition of megastardom. For cream to be formed, there must be milk first."

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## A monument to memory

IN HIS first concert with the London Symphony Orchestra, Mark Wigglesworth, whose main appointment is with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, evidently set out to rehabilitate the so-called *Leningrad Symphony* by Shostakovich (his No 7) after a long spell in the doldrums, and very nearly succeeded. Conducting entirely from memory, Wigglesworth explored beyond the propaganda value of a deliberate wartime morale-booster and sought to establish a symphonic monument.

Defiance is the name of the game for much of the symphony's content, and defiance there was in plenty as the extra large brass contingent blared out their resolution over the rattle of three side-

drums. Much of the work was composed during the terrible siege of Leningrad by the Nazis forces between 1941 and 1943 when Hitler vowed to obliterate the city, and nearly a million people actually starved to death.

More than half a century on, it is still horrible to contemplate what this meant while Shostakovich was struggling to reflect the cataclysm in music. His resistance was as much against the Stalin he abhorred as Hitler, and what is undeniably passionate in the music is dispo-

portionate to the weight of orchestral expression.

This performance lacked nothing in commitment to the rhetoric and even the bombast clothing symphonic ideas that are sometimes more baroque than merely pungent. The cutting edge of woodwind allied to searing strings created a dramatic impact without, finally, giving purpose to the episodes stitched together that make the affirmation of hope in the finale.

By way of prelude, the actress Fiona Shaw read an English version of the *Requiem* poem by Anna Akhmatova, a voice of conscience that mirrors the depths of one person's tragedy for a million others.

NOEL GOODWIN

## Worth a secret smile

NOT so much as a flicker of a smile was seen to compromise his serious demeanour from one end of the evening to the other. Aldo Ciccolini walked on to the platform of Symphony Hall with the air of a man who has been doing this kind of thing for decades and who, though polite, is beyond being pleased, let alone flattered by any concert occasion.

His playing gives a different impression. And if we have to choose between an upturn in the solemnly set corners of the mouth and a twinkle in the fingers in a Scarlatti sonata (one of two brilliantly executed encores appended to the Birmingham recital), let's have the latter. There was surely no inward smile, however, when he lost his grip on a bravura passage in the Fauré *Ballade*. As a pianist who has been closely associated with the French repertoire since he settled in Paris nearly 50 years

ago, he must have been disappointed. In fact, in comparison with the stylistic authenticity of his interpretations of both the *Ballade* and the *Nocturne* in D flat, Op 63 — with its inward, understated, nostalgic fervour so characteristic of Fauré — any technical failure was of little significance.

By the end of the recital he proclaimed the anthem in *The*

*Great Gate of Kiev* as though he had the resources of four hands and two keyboards. Even more impressive was his thunderous performance of *The Hut on Fowl's Legs*, the previous movement in *Pictures at an Exhibition*, which was a terrifying study in malevolence.

Those who knew Ciccolini mainly for his interest in the music of Erik Satie must have been astonished by what he could do in Mussorgsky. He is not only a pianist of wit and style but also a full-scale old-fashioned virtuoso who enjoys a formidable challenge. He might not have betrayed a smile after his performance of Franck's *Prelude*, *Choral* and *Poëme*, but having heard such awkward material transformed into convincing piano music, at least one member of the audience did.

GERALD LARNER

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# LAW

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● SYCAMORE'S LAW 41

Should the press be reined in? Edward Fennell introduces the annual *Times* competition, with One Essex Court

**D**iana, Princess of Wales, with Dodi Fayed: the sale of her taped conversations; the Blair family at prayer... all recent events that have again cast the press as supposedly cynical demons sipping irresponsibly in what David Mellor, when he was a Conservative Cabinet minister, called the Last Chance Saloon.

How can the media be reined in? And what exactly is it that they should be stopped from doing? As was revealed in the cases cited above, there can sometimes be as much collusion as co-operation when celebrities meet journalists.

The complexity of this national debate is the background for this year's *Times* Law Awards sponsored by the chambers of Anthony Grabner, QC, at One Essex Court. The awards invite students to provide succinct, well-argued entries on:

**Privacy and the press: is law the answer?**

The prizes are generous and the judging panel distinguished. It is headed by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, who joins Lord Hoffmann, the Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, Anthony Grabner, QC, and Michael Bloch from One Essex Court, and Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*.

The competition offers a unique chance to participate at the highest level in the discussion of issues that Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, has described as "difficult and debatable".

Is a consensus gradually emerging that self-regulation by the press may have had its day? Last week Lord Bingham expressed the view that privacy law would develop through individual cases coming before the courts when the European Convention on Human Rights was enforced into UK law. There would, he added, therefore be no need for legislation.

Courts would be under a clear duty to protect privacy "and my experience is that over time they will develop the law".

But Lord Irvine has noted that a law of privacy defined by Parliament might be more welcome to the press, and more certain, than one developed as individual cases emerge.

Whether it is done by the courts or Parliament, the question — as Lord Bingham put it — is where to draw the boundary between free speech and privacy. How far is personal privacy a human right in an open society? Should public figures (or their children) be endowed with special rights over and above the rest of us?

Entrants will also want to consider those grey areas of taste and journalistic procedure. Is it the publication of prurient articles that offends the public? Or the exercise of research that precedes it? Is photographic intrusion to be considered different from simple spying on the rich and famous? Or are all agencies that peep and pry — including lip reading or bugging intimate conversations — to be considered beyond the pale?

## The great media debate



Entrants must also decide how far the law is able to meet the concerns of the public in a democratic society. In 1990, on privacy, Lord Justice Glidewell pointed out in the case of Gordon Kaye, an actor who objected to having photographs taken of himself while in hospital: "It is well known that in English law there is no right to privacy and accordingly there is no right of action for breach of a person's privacy."

Lord Justice Glidewell went on to say that the case was "a graphic illustration of the desirability of Parliament considering whether and in what circumstances statutory provision can be made to protect the

privacy of individuals". In the same case Lord Bingham expressed his concerns about the gap in English law, saying: "The case highlights the failure of both the common law of England and statute to protect in an effective way the personal privacy of citizens."

So what is to be done? Events have moved on since the case of Kaye. In 1996 Lord Bingham held that a stalker had committed an offence by inflicting "psychiatric injury" on his victim. Can incessant doorstepping, journalists or paparazzi be considered in this category? And must it be the same individual journalists? Or could the charge be laid

corporately at the agency or newspaper that employs a succession of them?

The age of those affected is also a factor. It is not only the young Princes, William and Harry, who may need protection from intrusive media operators. A case in 1993 involving the identity of children of a transsexual balanced the freedom "to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority" (as expressed in the human rights convention) against the "right to respect for private and family life", as described in the same convention. The existence of such a conflict in the same declaration of principle illustrates the

difficulties that lawmakers would face.

Can you find some elegant way of reconciling these inconsistencies? Or do you think that Parliament will be immobilised by the difficulties of legislation and forced to hand the job to the judges — while conceding a further extension of drinking time in the Last Chance Saloon?

Entries of no more than 1,000 words must be sent to One Essex Court, Temple, London EC4Y 9AR, by December 5, 1997. The winning entry will be published in *The Times* and the award will be presented by the Lord Chancellor at a reception next year in the City of London.

### THE TIMES LAW AWARDS 1997: HOW TO ENTER

**Privacy and the press: is law the answer?**

ENTRIES of no more than 1,000 words on the above must be received by Friday, December 5. The results will be announced next February.

Please send entries to *The Times* Law Awards, c/o One Essex Court, Temple, London EC4Y 9AR. The prizes are: 1st, £3,000; 2nd, £2,000; 3rd, £1,000. There will be three prizes, of £250 each, for runners-up.

#### COMPETITION RULES

1. The competition is open to all students in any discipline registered with a United Kingdom educational institution except for employees of One Essex Court, *Times* Newspapers and News International, and members of their families.

2. *The Times* and One Essex Court have the right to publish or reproduce, at any time, all or part of any article entered for the awards.

3. The article must be the sole creation and original work of the entrant. *The Times* and One Essex Court reserve the right to delete or omit from any published article anything that in the absolute discretion of *The Times* or One Essex Court should not be published on editorial or legal grounds.

4. Only one entry per person will be allowed.

5. All entries will be acknowledged but will not be returned. The organisers of the competition accept no responsibility for the safe keeping of articles and entrants are advised to keep a copy.

6. Entries must be no more than 1,000 words, clearly handwritten, or typed with double spacing.

7. The decision of the judges will be final.

Further details: 0171-583 2000



Lord Hoffmann, top, and Anthony Grabner, QC



## Now Lord Ackner has a question for Labour

LORD ACKNER, the retired law lord who was a thorn in the side of the previous Lord Chancellor, has returned to the fray. He wants the Government to come clean on whether it plans a privacy law. He has tabled a question, for answer today, asking when the White Paper is expected on incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights.

Lord Ackner asks whether the Government plans to legis-

## OUTS

late for a privacy law or whether Labour will leave the law to be developed through the courts, as Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said last week.

**Shout about it**  
ADVERTISING by lawyers used to be forbidden. Now, a survey claims, lawyers are keeping advertising and marketing agencies afloat almost single-handed. Law firms are shown to be investing more in marketing than in any other sector.

The survey of 100 leading law, accountancy, surveying

and banking and securities firms — commissioned by Wheeler Associates, a marketing consultancy — found that the law firms employed the most marketing staff — nearly three for every 100 fee-earners — and were ploughing in the most money into marketing, about £3,000 per fee-earner. But law firms were still trailing behind accountants in the quality of their marketing. Wheeler's *Marketing the Advisers* concludes: "The legal profession has been the last to embrace marketing, principally because of restrictions imposed by the Law Society, but on the evidence of this sur-

vey is now investing heavily in marketing, and catching up fast."

### Buzz off

ONE solicitor has come up with a way to spike the next *Which?* survey attacking the quality of advice lawyers offer. The survey was based on advice offered to researchers posing as clients on the phone.

Robert Sayer, the Law Society's deputy vice-president, says the answer is not to try to improve telephone advice, simply to stop doing it altogether. In a letter to the *Law Society Gazette*, he says: "It is tempting to try to help when a call comes in, but it is unprofessional and potentially dangerous. It is rare for a client to volunteer all the relevant facts. They may gloss over the ones they do not like or simply not realise what is important."

**Law's lore**  
AN A to Z guide to the law comes out next week. *Pocket Law* (Economist Books, £10.99) tells you all the law you need to know, from "attestation" and "cure period" through to "latent defect", "subrogation" and "waiver" — and all "without prejudice". The guide is peppered with quotations, including: "The illegal we do immediately. The unconstitutional takes a little longer" (Henry Kissinger). And "No law is quite appropriate for all" (Livy).

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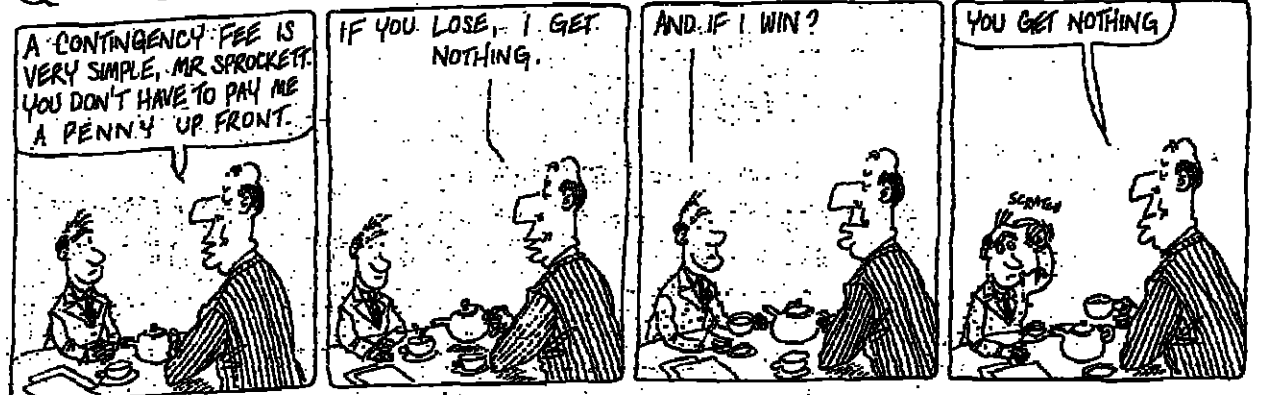
## Talking heads seek listeners

**LORD FALCONER** of Thoroton, the Solicitor General, is tonight giving the Denning Lecture organised by the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance & Industry. His talk is on "Commercial fraud or sharp practice — beyond the law?"  
Details: 01344 868752  
NEXT WEEK  
Professor Mary McAleese, the Fianna Fail Irish presidential nominee, is speaking at this year's European training conference, which is being hosted by the Bar in London on October 24 and 25.  
Subject: The European lawyer in 2020.  
Details: 0171-722 9731



Professor McAleese: wants to be Ireland's President

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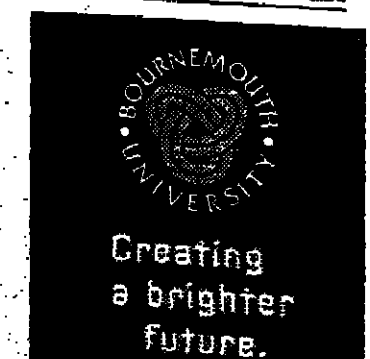
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# I am a trademark

Can you take out  
copyright on  
yourself?  
Mark Stephens  
investigates

It seems sadly prescient that only seven months ago Mr Justice Laddie was using Diana, Princess of Wales, as an example in an appeal judgment in a case brought by Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc. against the London retailer and Elvis Presley specialist, Elvish Yours. The question of the commercial power within a name and image of a famous deceased individual was being fought over.

In that case, the American plaintiff had, in 1989, applied to register a version of Presley's signature and the words "Elvis" and "Elvis Presley" as trademarks in several classes, including cosmetics and toiletries.

Sid Shaw, the Inner London Elvis Presley fan and entrepreneur, opposed these applications on, among others, the grounds of "lack of distinctiveness" and conflict with his own trademark, Elvish Yours, also registered in relation to similar goods.

Emphasising the fact that there is no copyright (nor anything akin to it) in a name, Mr Justice Laddie quoted from a Privy Council decision in an 1896 case, *Du Boulay v Du Boulay*: "...in this country we do not recognise the absolute right of a person to a particular name to the extent of entitling him to prevent the assumption of that name by a stranger... [this] is a grievance for which our law affords no redress."

The Spencer family, the media and Carnaby Street traders are now looking keenly at the extent of the existing protection for the name and image of Diana, Princess of Wales. Mention is made of "copyrighting" Diana: a move which, in the United Kingdom, quite simply, is impossible. [In this country, at least, not all nouns can be "verbed".]

It is well established in any



case that copyright cannot protect a name or a short phrase: there was a well-publicised case in 1940 when the title of the song, *The Man who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, was denied copyright protection, which then allowed a film under the same name to be released.

What is possible is a different form of protection: the registration of the component parts of the Princess's selling power as trademarks: her name, likeness and unofficial titles uniquely attributed to her, such as "Queen of Hearts", could all be regulated (and registered) in relation to their application to goods.

The Trademarks Act 1994 has 42 classes under which registration can be made: from stationery to sportswear, and balloons to boxer shorts, as well as services such as dry-cleaning. Were a specific image of the Princess to be trademarked, for example, under the Act, it would, among other

things, be an offence to apply that image (or more crucially) one likely to be mistaken for it without authority to goods or their packaging.

The facility (and legitimacy) by which an individual's name, image and phrases can be applied to goods in this country allows the siphoning-off of profits that many believe should be, and that many consumers believe are, going to charities supported in this case — by the estate of the Princess of Wales.

The registration of the essence of Diana, Princess of Wales — a name, a slogan and her image — as trademarks would afford the greatest protection possible under British jurisdiction and, indeed, in many of the 157 other jurisdictions which globally accord similar trademark protection. If registered, it could be ensured that purchases bearing Diana's registered name or

image would include a donation to charity. One firm of trademark agents, D. Young & Co, has already offered to register the relevant names and images free of charges for the benefit of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

This method of protecting and capitalising on identity is, since the commencement of the 1994 Trade Marks Act, increasingly sought — particularly in sporting circles, where there are millions to be made by the endorsement of products and the cashing in on the willingness of hero-worshipping fans to buy a part of their dream.

Jacques Villeneuve, Damon Hill and Alan Shearer have all trademarked their image. Eric Cantona has registered his image, his name in conjunction with the number seven and appropriated to himself the call "Ooh, ah, Cantona". Ryan Giggs, a boy wonder on the pitch, is not only "trade-

marked" but also operates as a limited company. If one's Ryan Giggs duvet cover was acquired other than from a Manchester United or other authorised outlet, one can be sure that the proceeds have gone nowhere near Mr Giggs or Old Trafford.

Does that matter? I believe that it does where there is a misappropriation, as in the case of much of the "homage" material to Diana, Princess of Wales. If the purchaser thought that the net profit was actually going to a worthy cause such as a registered charity.

We all accept that the world works on vulgar commercialism. But in cases such as this, the real concern should be with putting the profits into the right hands and not those of the counterfeiters.

The author is a media lawyer and senior partner with Stephens Innocent, City solicitors.

## The Law Society President talks to Frances Gibb



Sycamore responding to government proposals

Phillip Sycamore was preoccupied yesterday with collecting a new pair of spectacles in readiness for Friday. The day is never far from his mind: at 46 the youngest Law Society President yet, he is to deliver his profession's response to the Government's plans for legal aid and civil justice. And as 1,000 solicitors meet for their annual conference in Cardiff, there is a frisson of anticipation. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will outline his vision of civil justice in the next century: reforms that go to the heart of how the 70,000-strong solicitors' profession in England and Wales fulfils its role.

The President, who took over in July, is positive about new Labour and what lies in store. "We will be looking at the practical issues which affect the future structure of the profession and the delivery of legal services. The challenge for us is to be constructive and to take a lead in the debate."

Mr Sycamore, a personal injuries specialist from a three-partner firm, Lonsdale, in Blackpool, is suited to the task. The future of the small high street practice, of the £1.5 billion legal aid scheme, of personal injury work and of civil litigation as a whole, are up for review.

Lord Irvine is expected to signal an expansion of "no win, no fee" work, a move likely to lead to the death of civil legal aid for all claims over money and damages. Mr Sycamore says: "We are all in favour of extending the scope of conditional 'no win, no fee' fees. But not as a substitute for legal aid. It would be ironic, he adds, if it were to become a substitute because when the last Government proposed a change in the law to allow for conditional fees, the Labour peer Lord Mishcon exacted a pledge during the passage of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 as the price of its support for "no win" fees. The outcome was a line in the schedule to the Act stating that someone could not be refused legal aid on the ground that a conditional fee agreement was more appropriate.

Mr Sycamore highlights the dangers of withdrawing civil legal aid for claims such as those brought by brain-damaged children, and other medical negligence claims. For "no win" arrangements to work,

## Lawyers have to get real

people have to take out insurance against losing and having to pay the other side's costs. "But," he says, "in such cases, many people might not be able to afford the insurance — nor, without it, to take the risk."

The last Government introduced legal aid for children in their own right. "I can't believe that the present Government would want to remove that right and to put some of the most vulnerable people in our society at risk."

"No win" fees have to exist as a price of delivering legal services; otherwise the impact on access to justice could be "very worrying". He favours using the principles of conditional fees being extended to legal aid: solicitors would assess the success prospects in legal aid cases and their "success" fees would be ploughed back into the legal aid fund.

Solicitors are under pressure, too, to alter the structure of legal practice. Should they

be able to offer one-stop shops with other professionals? The Law Society council has yet to form a view. Mr Sycamore believes that such arrangements should not be ruled out. Nor, he added, were they necessarily just for big City law firms. "Solicitors must look at what consumers want. But mixed professional partnerships might be a way not just to deliver services, but also to bring outside capital into a high street practice."

Access to justice, but also access to the legal profession: this is a second theme Mr Sycamore will champion in his year of office. A grammar school boy (now married with three children) who became a solicitor because he obtained a local authority grant, he is concerned about the problems now facing the less well-off who want to be lawyers.

There is, he says, a danger that people from his kind of background will — as Cherie Booth, QC, has also said — be denied entry. With the Bar, he wants the Government to extend the student loan scheme to cover the one-year law vocational course and ensure that the profession represents "society as a whole".

Solicitors must meanwhile focus on how to adapt for the next century. "We must embrace change, and the challenges of change," he says. "Solicitors have to get real."

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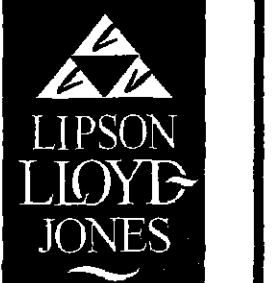
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- ☐ To establish the Law Society as the leading influence in the field of Legal Education and Training for lawyers.
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For informal enquiries, please ring Jane Betts, Secretary-General on 0171 242 1222.



Closing date for applications is 3rd November 1997.

First interviews will be held in London on 20th November 1997 and second interviews on 26th November 1997.

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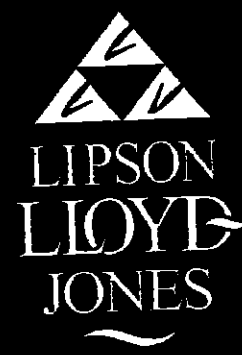
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## AMERICAN FOOTBALL 46

Bears get greedy  
and have to  
pay high price

## SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 14 1997

## RUGBY UNION 49

Injury forces  
Guscott out of  
England squad



Belgium bar World Cup path

# Luck of the draw smiles on Ireland

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT MAY be a shade premature to talk about the luck of the Irish, but when the draw for the World Cup play-offs was made in the studios of a Swiss television station in Zurich yesterday, Ireland were paired with Belgium. Reaction from the Republic ranged from barely concealed delight to extreme caution, yet, underneath, the feeling was unanimous. It was a tie they could win.

Ireland will play the first leg at Lansdowne Road on October 20 and will travel to Brussels for the return on November 15. The four play-off winners, from among the eight group runners-up after the initial European qualifying series, will progress to the tournament finals in France next year.

Ray Houghton, who captained Ireland for the first time in their 1-1 draw against Romania in Dublin on Saturday, captured the optimistic mood. "I can sense the anti-

pation already," he said. "The Irish supporters can feel something going on and you can almost feel it too."

"It would have been nice to have had the home leg last, but you can't have everything I suppose. It's a pretty good draw for us really; it certainly could have been a lot worse." It could, indeed, in the other play-offs. Croatia will play Ukraine and Hungary take on Yugoslavia. Italy, who were vanquished by England, have an awkward two-leg tussle with Russia, which will not have eased the nagging fears of Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach.

"Russia, along with Croatia and Yugoslavia, was one of the three teams that I did not want," Paolo Maldini, the Italy captain and son of Cesare, said, "so I can't say the draw went well for us." Maldini Jr injured an ankle against England and may not be fit for the first leg against Russia in Moscow.

Shay Given, the Ireland and Newcastle United goalkeeper, was particularly pleased to avoid Ukraine, where Newcastle travelled to play Dynamo Kiev in a European Cup Champions' League fixture earlier this month. "To be honest, it's not that nice a place," he said. "I'd much rather be going to Belgium, but we mustn't be overconfident about it. We'll probably need to be a goal or two up because the second leg is bound to be difficult."

Ireland last met Belgium in the qualifying stages of the 1988 European championship. Goals from Frank Stapleton and Liam Brady gave them a 2-2 draw in Brussels while the spoils in Dublin were shared 0-0. "I played in both games," Houghton said. "The Belgians were quite strong then and I'm sure they'll be much the same now."

Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, will take advice from Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, as he plots a course towards what would be Ireland's third successive appearance in the World Cup finals. Belgium defeated a depleted Wales side 3-2 on Saturday, which gave them second place behind Holland in group seven.

"We should be able to get a lot of homework done on them," McCarthy said. "Bobby is an old mate of mine and, with his assistance and the help of videos, we should know everything about the Belgians before we play them in the first game. They will be no soft touch and it's going to be an exciting couple of weeks for Irish football."

Not so much, perhaps, for clubs in the FA Carling Premiership. They will not be affected by the second legs as the FA Premier League, which runs the Premiership, had already designated November 15 as a spare weekend for international matches.

However, the Premiership programme for the weekend of October 25, 26 and 27 — shortly before the first legs — will not be postponed. "All our fixtures before the play-offs will go ahead," a Premier League spokesman said yesterday. Although Aston Villa, Liverpool, Derby County, Chelsea, and Newcastle could each lose several players, requests for postponements are unlikely to be met with much sympathy.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, will probably be without Steve Staunton, on duty for Ireland, and Savo Milosevic, the Yugoslavia striker, for the game against Arsenal at Highbury on October 26. "There's no point in moaning about it now," Little said. "All I can do is wish the two lads all the best and hope they get through to France."

McCarthy has already made his stance clear. "We need a full five days' preparation," he said. "On this occasion, there will be no exceptions to the rule. The players I want will all travel to Dublin."



Wenger will be weighing up the price to be paid for progress in the Coca-Cola Cup at Highbury tonight

## Wenger leaves plenty in reserve as Coca-Cola Cup loses its fizz

By MATT DICKINSON

COCA-COLA may claim to be the real thing, but the football cup that the company sponsors will this week be exposed as anything but. Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, gave warning yesterday that the competition is in danger of extinction and his decision to rest at least eight first-team players tonight — following Manchester United's lead of recent seasons — seems certain to hasten its downfall.

With its one significant incentive, a UEFA Cup place for the victors, now removed, other leading FA Carling Premiership clubs are expected to show a similar lack of interest and the Football League, the competition's governing body, has so far proved powerless to halt its transformation into a testing ground for youth players and reserves.

An appeal against UEFA's decision to reduce the cup's status has yet to be resolved, and could involve a long journey through European courts. The Football League is arguing that UEFA, angry at the Premiership's refusal to cut its number to 18, has discriminated against the wrong body.

Supporters, meanwhile, buoyed by England's World

Cup qualification, will flock to club grounds in ever greater numbers, only to find in several instances that they have been lured there under false pretences. Manchester United have made early exits at the hands of York City and Leicester City in the past two seasons after fielding weakened teams.

Neither time have they been punished and Alex Ferguson,

Player sues over tackle ... 8  
Fans' treatment ... 10  
Leading article ... 21  
Elliott's defence ... 48  
Rob Hughes ... 50

the manager at Old Trafford, will stick with the same policy at Ipswich Town in the third round tonight.

Arsenal will be without nine first-team regulars when they entertain Birmingham City at Highbury. One of those is enforced by an ankle injury to Emmanuel Petit, which threatens to rule the France midfielder out of action for up to three months.

Petit was tackled heavily during an international against South Africa on Saturday and Arsenal are awaiting the results of a bone scan to show whether there is a fracture. Rested rather than in-

jured will be the club's England players, David Seaman, Tony Adams and Ian Wright. Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars, who played for Holland at the weekend, Patrick Vieira, Nicolas Anelka and Nigel Winterburn.

Wenger, however, made no apologies for his actions and insisted that the Coca-Cola Cup must regain its UEFA Cup place or face an uncertain future. "If the competition wants to survive it has to have a European place," he said. "If you put everyone under obligation to use their best players, there must be an incentive. Otherwise you must have a competition where everyone is free to play who they want. We had 12 players away on internationals and there are so many games. You can't expect people to put full sides out if there is no UEFA Cup place available."

"I work for Arsenal and it is my job to look after the interests of the club. We will still play to win and I am convinced we will. It is a chance for the younger players such as Matthew Upson, Stephen Hughes and Bo Morte to prove themselves."

Chelsea, who entertain Blackburn Rovers tomorrow, are expected to rest their internationals, as are Liverpool, who travel to West

Bromwich Albion with their captain, Paul Ince, sure to enjoy a rest after his exertions in Rome.

Dion Dublin, the Coventry City striker, yesterday lost his appeal against his sending-off at Blackburn Rovers two weeks ago and will have to serve a three-match ban, starting with the Coca-Cola Cup with Everton at Highfield Road tomorrow.

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RUSSIA v ITALY CROATIA v UKRAINE

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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1224

- ACROSS
- 4 Purpose: completion (3)
  - 5 Point of view (7)
  - 9 Eng. measure, c. 28 grams (5)
  - 10 Pottery fragment (5)
  - 11 Grand Canyon state (7)
  - 12 Lesson (8)
  - 14 Exquisite: not rainy (4)
  - 15 Plant prop; punish (4)
  - 16 Senior councillor (once) (8)
  - 20 Calculate: come right in end (4,3)
  - 21 Trainee officer (5)
  - 23 Be almost as good as (5)
  - 24 Supervise (7)
  - 25 Marsh (3)
- DOWN
- 1 Extinguished (fire) (6)
  - 2 Irish republic (4)
  - 3 Play violin: cheat (6)
  - 4 Abridgement (13)
  - 5 Rustic Gk. architecture order (5)
  - 6 Speech of praise (8)
  - 7 Fly lavishly (6)
  - 13 Achieve trickily: design cleverly (8)
  - 15 One not brave (6)
  - 17 Break (limit) (6)
  - 18 Lower (regions) (6)
  - 19 Virginia —, Waves author (5)
  - 22 Portion (of medicine) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1223

ACROSS: 1 Hastings 5 Hills 9 Toad-in-the-hole 18 Bent 11 Arduous 13 Entice 15 Career 18 Remorse 20 Cade 23 Know one's place 24 Neap 25 Prospero

DOWN: 1 Hate 2 Snake 3 Idiotic 4 Gateau 6 Isotope 7 Treasury 8 Seed 12 Bearskin 14 Tombola 16 Accepts 17 Vener 19 Room 21 Drake 22 Veto

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## Villeneuve feels the heat of battle

Jacques Villeneuve had a hunted, haunted look when he left the sanctuary of the hut that passed as a dressing-room at Suzuka. Once he had fought through the lynch mob of television crews that barred his progress, he was confronted by a wall of fans, who patted him with incoherent glee.

He was wide-eyed, unnerved, but the demented loyalty of Japanese Formula One followers is the least of his worries. His principal problem is convincing sobersided administrators of his penitence, when he is summoned to Paris on October 21 to explain his penchant for ignoring warning flags.

It is theoretically possible, but highly unlikely, that the disciplinary committee of the FIA, motor sport's governing body, will ban Villeneuve from the final race, at Jerez in 12 days' time. The charade of racing under appeal in Japan

Distractions from motor racing play into Schumacher's hands, Michael Calvin says

has not endeared him to those brought up to believe that a driver must know his place. "He'd better smarten up when he comes to see us," one prominent FIA steward said.

The momentum of the race

for the world championship has shifted significantly. Michael Schumacher is almost certain to be one point ahead going into the last grand prix of the season, and Villeneuve is acutely aware that failure to win the title will suit those pursuing an alternative agenda.

Williams, who won their ninth constructors' championship in Suzuka, provoke envy. Their dominance is resented by the poseurs in the paddock, and acts as a powerful reference point for Ferrari, whose attempt to instal Schumacher as their first world champion for 18 years has taken on aspects of a crusade.

Schumacher is dismissive of suggestions, made most prominently by Patrick Head, the technical director of the

Williams team, that he will stop at nothing to fulfil his ambitions. Tellingly, he spoke with a rare confidence before he returned to Europe. "It will be a straightforward fight," he said, looking forward to Jerez. "Whoever wins will be champion, so both of us will be on the attack. I like it this way."

The mood in the Williams camp was low-key. Villeneuve lent credence to whispers that he is unhappy with the support offered by his team-mate, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, by making a point of praising Eddie Irvine's loyalty to his team leader.

Rumours that Villeneuve had to be talked into racing in Japan are unsubstantiated, but he is a distracted, almost diffident figure. He has always insisted he would walk away from Formula One if he lost a sense of enjoyment, and, as he remarked before leaving Suzuka: "Let's say I haven't enjoyed this weekend."



Villeneuve: distracted